Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. August 1879.

CONFIDENTIAL.

(4002.)

F.O.
424

PART XXXIX.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

85

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Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. August 1879.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

Part XXXIX.

No. 1.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 1.)

(No 693.) *Paris, June 30, 1879.*

My Lord,

M. WADDINGTON has communicated to me the following extract from a telegram which he has received from M. Fournier, the French Ambassador at Constantinople:—

"Sir H. Layard désire vivement que, d'accord avec Lord Salisbury, vous me donniez des ordres pour faire des observations au Sultan au cas où il voudrait remplacer Khéreddin par Mahmoud Nedim."

His Excellency desires me to inform your Lordship that he is quite ready to remonstrate in favour of Khéreddin, if your Lordship will do the same.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 2.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 1.)

(No. 698.) *Paris, June 30, 1879.*

My Lord,

I COMMUNICATED this afternoon to M. Waddington the contents of your Lordship's despatch No. 816 of the 27th instant respecting the recognition of Roumania.

M. Waddington expressed his concurrence in your Lordship's suggestion that the Roumanian Legislature should include the language of the XLIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin in the new 7th Article of the Roumanian Constitution.

He said that, although further legislation would still be necessary in Roumania to give practical effect to the principles of religious toleration, still he would accept such a provision as your Lordship proposed as a satisfaction of the Treaty, and would join with the other Powers in recommending it to Roumania.

He also agreed to your Lordship's suggestion that the message to the Roumanian Government should be conveyed through the Austrian Minister at Bucharest.

He begged me to ask your Lordship what communication on the subject it would, in your opinion, be now proper to make at Vienna.

He said that he had been in communication with the German Government about this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 3.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15)

(No. 699. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, June 30, 1879.*

I COMMUNICATED to M. Waddington this afternoon the contents of your Lordship's despatch No. 815 of the 27th instant respecting the new line of frontier between Greece and Turkey.

M. Waddington said that he would frankly declare that he must treat as wholly inadmissible the idea of forming a tributary State like Bulgaria or Egypt, as well as that of authorizing the occupation and administration of certain territory by Greece in the mode adopted with regard to Bosnia and Cyprus. Whatever territory was given to Greece must, in his opinion, be ceded to her in full sovereignty.

On the other hand, while carefully guarding himself against being supposed to yield formally on the question of Janina, M. Waddington did not speak of that question as being beyond discussion.

He said that he considered it essential that Greece should have the whole of the Gulf of Arta; and that for this reason the Italian proposal, notwithstanding the large accession of territory it assigned to Greece in Thessaly, could not be accepted.

He observed that, all the more if Janina were left to Turkey, he thought it necessary that Greece should have the Gulf of Arta and its dependencies, by which he understood the basins of the rivers of Arta and Louro, including the whole Kaïmakamlik of Prevesa. Greece must also have compensation in Thessaly for the subtraction which would be made from the territory which would have fallen to her according to the line laid down at Berlin.

M. Waddington said that his communication with other Powers made it impossible for him to make at the present moment any formal proposal excluding Janina from Greece. He begged me, however, to say to your Lordship, most confidentially, that if he were able to affirm that he should be able to obtain the consent of England to the frontier he had just sketched out his hands would be very much strengthened in recommending that, with a view to procuring unanimity among the Powers, the cession of Janina to Greece should not be insisted upon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 4.

Consul-General Fulgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Sofia, June 30, 1879.*

I LEAVE for Tirnova to-night, passing through Philippopolis, and shall arrive at Tirnova on Sunday. All the Foreign Diplomatic Agents will be there, including Belgian, just arrived. No Ottoman Representative in the field as yet.

No. 5.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 2.)

(No. 3.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, June 30, 1879.*

GOVERNOR-GENERAL has asked Commission to interpret Articles of [? Treaty] relating to telegraph service. He considers that appointments should be made by him, not by the Porte. Turkish Commissioner is strongly opposed to this view, chiefly on political grounds, and is supported by Austrian and French Commissioners; whilst Italian, supported by German Commissioner, holds strongly opposite views; Russian Commissioner will naturally be with latter body: whilst I shall consider it my duty to support Turkish view, although its correctness does not seem very clear.

Italian Commissioner, who is President, has asked his colleagues in writing whether their instructions will permit them to discuss this question.

French Commissioner will reply that, although he can discuss and give a vote, which will not be obligatory (*sic*).

Russian Commissioner leaves to-morrow for Constantinople to obtain further instructions. Other Commissioners agreed to meet; but, in absence of Russian, meeting cannot take place. As Italian says Sir H. Wolff knows that his view is correct, your Lordship will perhaps ask whether this is the case.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 6.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 2.)

(No. 44. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, July 1, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 322 of the 28th ultimo, French Ambassador told me to-day that France would insist, with England and Germany, before recognizing Roumania, on the fulfilment by the latter of the provisions laid down in Article XLIV of the Berlin Treaty; that he had informed Prince Bismarck of this, and had learnt from his Highness that Austria would now be prepared to support this policy, and to take part, if necessary, in the negotiations which, in the event of Roumania holding out on the subject of religious liberty, the Chancellor thought should be undertaken at Constantinople in order to obtain a satisfactory solution of this question.

No. 7.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 2.)

(No. 517.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 1, 1879, 10·50 P.M.*

SULTAN wishes to name Mahmoud Nedim Minister of the Interior, and to prevail upon Grand Vizier to accept him. His Highness has positively declined, threatening to resign at once if His Majesty persists, informing His Majesty that, as Turkey had taken serious engagements towards England as regards reforms, Mahmoud Nedim was not the man who would carry them out. I sent Sandison this morning with a very strong message to the Sultan, warning him of danger of appointing Mahmoud Nedim to a high post and of permitting the present fatal influence in the Palace to continue. Although I have reason to know that His Majesty has been made acquainted with the nature of my message, he has ordered that it shall be communicated to him in full this evening. French Ambassador is ready to support me vigorously, and has received the instructions referred to in your telegrams Nos. 134 and 135. The solution of the present crisis may have important consequences for the future of this country and our policy. I will telegraph to you my message to the Sultan to-morrow.

No. 8.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 2, 10·41 A.M.)

(No. 14.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, July 2, 1879, 9 A.M.*

OTTOMAN Legation has received intelligence that sixty zapfiehs, besides a force of regular troops, have been sent to the frontier to act as escort to the Commission. Porte, however, complains that Servian Government have not concentrated sufficient force on their side of the frontier.

I shall therefore at once call attention of the Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs to this matter.

No. 9.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 2, 11 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, July 2, 1879, 7·45 A.M.*

RECEIVED from Her Majesty's Commissioner following telegram, dated Nisch, 1st instant:—

"I hear, on good authority, four Ottoman battalions have entered Prizrend peaceably; Albanian League of Jacovar discontented with Prizrend consequently. This would show increased Ottoman authority in Albania.

"New Servian Commissioner presented himself officially the day before yesterday to the Commission. His predecessor has left. Ottoman Commissioner being ill, Porte has nominated Jevat, his late assistant, now on the Greek frontier, to succeed him; Commission consequently delayed here until Thursday, but hope there will be no further delay.

No. 10.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 138.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 2, 1879, 2·55 P.M.*

YOUR despatch No. 469, respecting coal mines in Imbros, has been referred to Admiralty.

Reply will be sent hereafter.

No. 11.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. Walsham.

(No. 36.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 2, 1879, 3:45 P.M.*

GERMAN and French Governments have agreed to be satisfied with the insertion of language of XLIVth Article of Treaty of Berlin in Constitution of Roumania, and to make the communication to Roumanian Ministry through Austria. We have asked Italy to join, but have not yet received answer.

No. 12.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Michell.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 2, 1879, 5 P.M.*

YOURS No. 3.

Following is Sir H. Drummond Wolff's opinion:—

"It was intended to give these appointments to the Governor-General, subject to the control of the Porte alone, which should have the right of dismissal, and should be the Court of Appeal from the Governor-General.

"But such appointments, if made by the Governor-General, are in virtue of his direct representation of the Sultan, and on his own personal responsibility towards his Sovereign. They should not be countersigned by any of his administrators, none of whom are empowered to deal in any way with the telegraphs; neither can they form the subject of discussion in the Provincial Assembly."

No. 13.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 2, 5·30 P.M.)

(No. 61.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, July 2, 1879, 1:30 P.M.*

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 42. Italian Government will be glad to instruct their Ambassador at Vienna to include Italy in the communication to be made to the

Roumanian Government with the view of obtaining the insertion in the Constitution of the wording of XLIVth Article of Treaty of Berlin, but after the vote of Roumanian Assembly. Should this not be favourable, the Italian Government desire to preserve their liberty of action in regard to steps for placing their diplomatic relations with Roumania on a more formal footing.

Despatch going to General Menabrea as above.

No. 17.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 365.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, July 2, 1879.*

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me yesterday, and spoke to me on the subject of the Asiatic Boundary Commission, which his Excellency said had come to a deadlock on account of the difficulties raised by the British Commissioner.

I told Count Schouvaloff that I was prevented from discussing the subject, in consequence of the pretension of the Russian Commissioner to fix, without our consent, the point to the west of Karaourgan at which, according to the agreement made by me with his Excellency, the participation of the English Commissioner in the settlement of the frontier is to commence. The Turkish Commissioners, I said, had been induced, before Colonel Clarke's arrival, to agree to a certain line of frontier to the north and west of Karaourgan. With regard to points north of Karaourgan, Her Majesty's Government did not claim that their Commissioner had any voice, though it seemed evident that the Turkish Commissioners had consented to a tracing less favourable to the Porte than was contemplated in the Treaty. But as regards the point to the west of Karaourgan, we maintained that we had a right to see that it was so fixed as to satisfy the meaning of the words "près de Karaourgan," which, it was admitted, were used in the Treaty, though accidentally omitted from the signed copy. It was impossible for Her Majesty's Government to accept the point proposed by the Russian Commissioner, which, instead of being to the west, was, in reality, to the south-west of Karaourgan.

I have informed your Excellency, by telegraph, of the substance of the above conversation, and have requested you to endeavour to clear the matter up, and to induce the Russian Government to instruct their Commissioner to the effect that the point to the west of Karaourgan, mentioned in the Treaty, must be settled by agreement with the English as well as with the Turkish Commissioners.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 18.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. Walsham.

(No. 340.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 2, 1879.*

I INFORMED you, in my despatch No. 337 of the 27th ultimo, that I had suggested to Count Münster that the best solution of the Roumanian difficulty would be, in my opinion, that the three Western Powers, with Italy, if she would join, should urge the Roumanian Government to include the language of Article XLIV of the Treaty of Berlin in Article 7 of the Roumanian Constitution; and that the Austrian Government should be asked to direct their Representative at Bucharest to bring the views of the Powers to the knowledge of Prince Charles.

I inclose copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Sir H. Elliot on the subject.*

The German, French, and Italian Governments have agreed to be satisfied with the acceptance by Roumania of this suggestion, and have consented to the communication being made through the Austrian Representative.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* To Sir H. Elliot, No. 428.

No. 19.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Michell.

(No. 14.) *Foreign Office, July 2, 1879.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your telegram No. 3 relative to a question which has arisen whether, under the 19th Article of Chapter I of the Organic Statute, the appointments for the telegraph service in Eastern Roumelia should be made by the Governor-General or by the Porte.

I have consulted Sir H. Drummond Wolff upon the subject, who states that in his opinion it was intended that these appointments should be by nomination of the Governor-General, subject to the control of the Porte alone, which should have the right of dismissal, and should be the Court of Appeal from the Governor-General.

Article 19 of the Statute runs as follows:—

"Les douanes, les postes, les télégraphes, les phares, et les chemins de fer intéressant le système des communications des diverses provinces de l'Empire entre elles, et de l'Empire avec l'Europe, ainsi que la fabrication et la vente des armes de guerre et de la poudre, sont réservés à l'Empire.

"Au point de vue du service et de la discipline, les fonctionnaires et employés des douanes, des postes, des télégraphes, et des chemins de fer intéressant le système des communications ci-dessus défini, ainsi que les préposés à la fabrication et à la vente des armes de guerre et de la poudre, relèvent du Gouverneur-Général comme représentant du pouvoir central."

It seems to Sir H. Drummond Wolff that it would be in conformity with the spirit of the Article, as it would also be undoubtedly convenient, that the Governor-General should have the nomination of the telegraphic clerks and other employés, subject to the supervision and regulations of the central power. But such appointments, if made by him, would be made in virtue of his capacity as direct Representative of the Sultan, and on his own personal responsibility towards his Sovereign. They should not be countersigned by any of his Administrators, none of whom are empowered to deal in any way with the telegraphs. Neither could these appointments properly form the subject of discussion in the Provincial Assembly.

I have informed you, by telegraph, of the substance of Sir H. Drummond Wolff's opinion, as given above, for your guidance in any discussion which may take place in the Commission in regard to this question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 20.

M. de Giers to Count Schouvaloff.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Count Schouvaloff, July 3.)

St. Pétersbourg, le 11 Juin, 1879.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

LE Ministre de Serbie à St. Pétersbourg nous a communiqué dernièrement une Circulaire que M. Ristich a adressée aux Représentants des Puissances à Belgrade relativement à la nouvelle délimitation Turco-Serbe.

Cette pièce aurait produit, selon M. Ristich, une impression favorable sur les agents étrangers en Serbie. Elle a, sans doute, été portée par eux à la connaissance de leurs Gouvernements respectifs.

La Circulaire Serbe commence par rappeler les désordres qui se sont produits ce printemps sur la frontière Albanaise. M. Ristich n'a pas manqué de les signaler aussitôt à l'attention de la Porte en la priant de prendre toutes les dispositions nécessaires pour préserver la Serbie des incursions des bandes armées qui violaient son territoire et s'encageaient son sol. Malgré l'assurance du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères Ottoman qu'aucune invasion sérieuse ne se tramait du côté de l'Albanie, ces incursions se sont cependant renouvelées à plusieurs reprises. Elles ont causé des dommages réels et considérables dont la population locale n'a pas été indemnisée par le Gouvernement Turc. M. Ristich en déduit la nécessité de placer la Principauté Serbe dans les conditions de sécurité plus complète vis-à-vis de la Turquie. Rejetant toute arrière-pensée de vouloir provoquer de ce chef une modification du Traité de Berlin ou une augmentation de territoire quelconque, il pense néanmoins que les Puissances devraient aviser à la situation déplorable qu'il indique, si elles ont à cœur de créer un état de

choses stable sur la base des nouveaux arrangements territoriaux intervenus en Orient. Le meilleur moyen d'arriver à ce résultat sur la frontière Turco-Serbe serait, selon lui, de ne pas perdre de vue les vœux qu'il expose quant aux positions définitives dont la possession semble indispensable à la Serbie pour sa sécurité extérieure.

Sans examiner en détail la Circulaire de M. Ristich nous nous bornerons à observer qu'en opposant une fin de non-recevoir pure et simple à ses conclusions, les Puissances s'exposeraient au reproche mérité de ne rien faire pour mettre un terme aux désordres qui l'ont provoquée. Le soin d'étudier cette question et de porter remède dans la mesure du possible, revient incontestablement à la Commission de la Délimitation Turco-Serbe. Elle devrait recevoir l'ordre de ne rien négliger pour s'acquitter de cette tâche. Ses travaux, ainsi que votre Excellence ne l'ignore pas, ont été déjà terminés l'année dernière entre Vranja et Polianitza. Mais nous croyons qu'on pourrait, tout en restant scrupuleusement fidèle à l'esprit du Traité de Berlin, prendre en considération les demandes formulées par M. Ristich relativement à la portion de la frontière entre Polianitza et Vranilong, qui reste encore à tracer.

C'est dans ce sens, M. l'Ambassadeur, que notre auguste Maître veut que vous vous prononciez quant à la teneur de la Circulaire Serbe.

Nous aurions désiré que le Gouvernement auprès duquel votre Excellence est accréditée donne à son Délégué au sein de la Commission de Délimitation Européenne Turco-Serbe, des instructions conformes à notre manière de voir, c'est-à-dire qui lui permettent de tenir compte des demandes légitimes et raisonnables de la Serbie dans les limites du Traité de Berlin.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) GIERS.

No. 21.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 129.) *Foreign Office, July 3, 1879.*

(Telegraphic.)

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF spoke to me yesterday about the Asiatic Boundary Commission, which he said was at a dead-lock, on account of the difficulties raised by our Commissioner. I said I was prevented from discussing the subject by the pretension of the Russian Commissioners to fix, without our consent, the point to the west of Karaourgan at which, according to the agreement between Count Schouvaloff and me, the participation of the English Commissioner begins. The Turks were induced, before Clarke's arrival, to agree to points north and west of Karaourgan. As to the former, we do not maintain that Clarke has any right to be heard, though the Turks have evidently been taken in; but as to the point to the west, we insist that we have a right to see that it satisfies the meaning of the word "près," and we cannot accept the point selected by the Russians, which appears to be south-west, instead of west.

Will you endeavour to clear up this matter, and to induce the Russian Government to instruct their Commissioner that the point west of Karaourgan must be fixed by agreement with the English as well as the Turkish Commissioner.

No. 22.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 3.)

(No. 103.) *St. Petersburgh, July 2, 1879.*

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram No. 125, Minister for Foreign Affairs inquires whether it is true that the question between Colonel Clarke and the Russian Commissioner has been definitively settled.

Count Schouvaloff telegraphs so, but nothing is yet known here of a final arrangement having been come to, nor of Colonel Clarke having resumed his place on the Commission.

No. 23.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 3.)

(No. 519.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 2, 1879.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 517, the message I sent to the Sultan was to the effect that the arrival of Mahmoud Nedim at Constantinople had caused serious apprehensions to Her Majesty's Government that it might be the first step towards his return to power as Grand Vizier; that they could not forget to his policy the disasters which had befallen Turkey had been generally attributed; and that I had been instructed by them to warn His Majesty that his appointment to a high post would necessarily bring about a change in their policy as regards Turkey. I further warned His Majesty against the fatal influence in the Palace which was alienating from His Majesty the affections of his people, the devotion of his army, and the confidence of his allies.

I had a very long conversation with His Majesty to-day, and trust that I have succeeded in preventing the appointment of Mahmoud Nedim. I explained to His Majesty that the influence in the Palace to which I alluded was that of Osman Pasha, who had succeeded in thwarting the policy and measures of the Grand Vizier, who was hostile to England, and whose maladministration of the army had irritated the officers and men.

The Sultan defended Osman Pasha, and I doubt whether His Majesty will be induced to part with him. His Majesty admitted the ability and patriotism of Haireddin, and said that, although he had cause to be dissatisfied with his Highness, he had no intention of changing his Ministry; that he wished to abolish office of Grand Vizier, and return to the system of Ministerial responsibility, which Ahmed Vefyk had introduced, that he should consult Grand Vizier on the subject, and let me know on Saturday his decision on the matter I had brought to his notice. On the whole, the interview was satisfactory, and the Sultan showed no offence or impatience at the very plain language I held to him.

French Ambassador made representations to His Majesty this morning indirectly against Mahmoud Nedim, and in favour of Haireddin.

No. 24.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Clarke.

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 3, 1879, 5 P.M.*

PLEASE let me know the exact position in which you and the Russian Commissioner stand in respect to the point of departure west of Karaourgan.

No. 25.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 3, 6·30 P.M.)

(No. 100.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July 3, 1879.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 83, German Ambassador some days ago informed Austrian Government of the communication to Vienna it was proposed to ask them to make to the Roumanian Government, and Baron Orczy told me to-day that Count Andrassy did not much like the thoughts of having to take a step which, if not followed by a successful result, might almost commit him to follow it up by something further.

He had, however, telegraphed to Bucharest, recommending in very urgent terms that the Roumanian Government should at once adopt the measures necessary to satisfy the Powers, and intimating the possibility that a refusal to do so would be followed by some collective action.

All colleagues, including the Italian Chargé d'Affaires, are instructed to associate themselves with me as soon as I receive your Lordship's definitive instructions.

No. 26.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 3, 7·15 P.M.)

(No. 520.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 3, 1879.*

PORTE decided yesterday to name Plenipotentiaries to discuss with Greeks the frontier-line, and is now occupied in framing their instructions. I do not know positively who the Turkish Plenipotentiaries will be, but I understand Carathéodory declines to be named.

No. 27.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 3, 5·45 P.M.)

(No. 521.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 3, 1879, 2·20 P.M.*

COUNCIL of Ministers has decided upon recalling Hussein Pasha, and its decision has been sent to Sultan for confirmation.

No. 28.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 864.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 3, 1879.*

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Excellency's information, an extract of a letter which has reached this Department from Captain Coope, an English officer, whose services have been retained, with those of other English officers, for the purpose of organizing the Turkish gendarmerie.

Your Excellency is already well acquainted with the obstacles which have been interposed by the Turkish officials in the way of Baker Pasha and the officers under his command, and the difficulties with which they have had to contend are forcibly depicted by Captain Coope.

I have to request that your Excellency will call the serious attention of the Porte to this matter, and urge that they shall not neglect until too late the opportunity which the presence of these officers affords to organize an efficient gendarmerie, to the absence of which the lawlessness and insecurity for life and property which prevails throughout the Sultan's Dominions is mainly to be ascribed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 29.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major Gordon.

(No. 16.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 3, 1879.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 37 of the 14th ultimo, reporting the proceedings of the Commission for the demarcation of the Southern and South-western frontiers of Eastern Roumelia.

Your own action, in connection with the discussions which have taken place, has the approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 30.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Clarke.

(No. 47.) *Foreign Office, July 3, 1879.*

Sir,

I SHOULD be glad to be informed of the exact position in which you stand with the Russian Commissioner with regard to the question of the point, west of Karaourgan, at which the Asiatic Boundary Commission, of which you are a member, shall commence their labours.

A telegram, marked No. 4, was addressed to you to-day in this sense.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 31.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 868.) *Foreign Office, July 3, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 698 of the 30th ultimo, reporting your communications with M. Waddington in regard to the suggestion of Her Majesty's Government that the Roumanian Legislature should include in her Constitution the language of the XLIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, on the subject of religious liberty.

Your Excellency, in the same despatch, states that M. Waddington had inquired of you what communication on this subject it would, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, be desirable to make to the Cabinet of Vienna on this subject.

The telegram which I addressed to Sir H. Elliot on the 30th ultimo, No. 83, and of which a copy was forwarded to your Excellency yesterday, will enable your Excellency to answer M. Waddington's inquiry on this point.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 32.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Palgrave.

(No. 89.) *Foreign Office, July 3, 1879.*

Sir,

THE Russian Ambassador asked me a few days ago to give him some explanation as to the form in which it was the intention of Her Majesty's Government to accredit an Agent and Consul-General to the new Prince of Bulgaria.

I told his Excellency, in reply, that it was intended to follow exactly the precedent that had been observed in the case of Colonel Mansfield, when he was accredited in that capacity in 1876 to the Prince of Roumania, and that I would forward to his Excellency a copy of my letter to the Prince of Bulgaria, accrediting you as Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General in Bulgaria, which was forwarded to you with my despatch No. 87 of the 20th ultimo, a promise which has since been carried out.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 33.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 4.)

Bujukdéré, July 3, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

ARRIVED here to-day.

Please telegraph whether I may at once dispose of tents, horses, and effects belonging to the Commission.

No. 34.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 4.)

(No. 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, July 3, 1879.*

PRESIDENT of Commission has addressed a Circular to the Commissioners stating that all the Commissioners have declared themselves ready to take part in the question submitted by Governor-General in matter of appointments to telegraph service, excepting Commissioners of France and Russia, who maintain in principle view held at previous meetings.

He, therefore, considers that as an official meeting would yield no practical results, it would be useless to [group omitted] it, and he suggests that the several Governments should be made acquainted with present position of Commission. French Commissioner has telegraphed to his Government that either French and Russian recommendations must be reconciled with those of the [group omitted), or *vice versâ*. Otherwise Commission can be of no practical utility.

Although Russian Commissioner has left ostensibly for the purpose of obtaining further instructions, his real object may be to represent necessity of confirming Director of Justice (*sic*).

I hope that the Porte will be firm on that point, as the objections raised commend themselves even to great many Bulgarians.

The Governor-General is afraid of his nominee on account of his connection with National Committee.

No. 35.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 85.)

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 4, 1879, 11·10 A.M.*

YOU should now proceed at once with the communication to Bucharest through the Austrian Government.

No. 36.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 4, 4·45 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tirnova, July 4, 1879, 12·40 P.M.*

PRINCE ALEXANDER arrives here Tuesday; will take oath to the Constitution Wednesday; will review troops Thursday; goes to Plevna Friday, and thence to Sofia.

I am going to Rustchuk to-day to see Vice-Consul on business, and return here Monday, the 7th.

No. 37.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 4, 6 P.M.)

(No. 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, July 3, 1879.*

SECRETARY-GENERAL has replied to Stolipine, requesting that matters concerning Kotel should be left *in statu quo* pending the settlement of boundary, which is, however, clear in the Berlin Treaty.

The Governor-General announced at Council to-day his intention to refer this matter to the Porte.

Since Russian troops are no longer in occupation, it appears desirable that the Governor-General should be prohibited from corresponding with Russian General, who should communicate with Porte through the Russian Ambassador, otherwise it will be difficult to ascertain what communications are made; they are generally kept secret from foreign members of Council.

It transpired at the Council to-day that Russian General refuses also to recognize jurisdiction of the Governor-General in the district of Ichtiman.
(Sent to Embassy.)

No. 38.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 4, 6 P.M.)

(No. 9.)
(Telegraphic.)
Philippopolis, July 4, 1879.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 30th June to the Ambassador, Governor-General tells me that he has requested General Stolipine to send here for trial the thirteen—not twenty, as previously reported—so-called Turkish brigands sentenced to hard labour in Siberia.

I told his Excellency that such a demand should be made through the Porte, and that he had no right to carry on a diplomatic correspondence with the Russian General. I have advised the Turkish Commissioner to cause the demand to be made direct to the Porte.

No. 39.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 90. Political.)
Scutari, June 22, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that M. Lippich, my Austrian colleague, tells me that a courier despatched by the Austrian Consul at Prisrend has reached him with alarming intelligence of the state of the country in that quarter of Albania, and that the small Christian community of Jacova has sought safety by abandoning the town.

As is frequently the case in Albania, the present may be only one of the passing panics of the Christians. In the meanwhile, I am informed, the Turkish authorities are marching troops into the disturbed districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 40.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 91. Political.)
Scutari, June 23, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 89, Political, of the 13th instant, it appears that the statement contained in it about the general safety secured through the severe action of the Committees of the Albanian League against brigands and others has now to be modified as to the mountain tribes around Ipek, Jacova, and even Prisrend, who are mostly Mahommedans, have refused to renew the "besa," or truce, which had been entered upon for a fixed term, suspending all blood-feuds and private quarrels.

The mountain Chiefs, perceiving that the self-constituted authorities at Jacova and Ipek and the adjacent towns have no other power than that accorded to them by the support of the inhabitants, have understood that the real strength is in the hands of their tribes, and they have, therefore, commenced ruling all the districts coming within their influence under, what is termed in this country, "mountain law." Its severity and rough basis of justice are counterbalanced by the countenance which the law gives to the prosecution of blood-feuds, and under this veil a monopoly of right, or rather of exercising the free-will, is quickly acquired by the strong.

The recent panic which drove the Christians from Jacova arose from an incident depending upon the above state of things. Some Mahommedan mountaineers had been invited to a Christian wedding; other mountaineers, who had not been bidden to the feast, came into the neighbourhood to threaten and frighten the Christians, and

No. 38*.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 445.)
Foreign Office, July 4, 1879.

Sir,

SIR A. PAGET has informed me by telegraph that the Italian Government will be ready to instruct their Ambassador at Vienna to include Italy in the communication which it is proposed to make to the Roumanian Government on the part of the Western Powers with the view of obtaining the insertion of the language of the XLIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin in the Roumanian Constitution, but after the vote of the Roumanian Assembly: as they wish, in case of that vote being unfavourable, to reserve their liberty of action as to the nature of their diplomatic relations.

As your Excellency was instructed by my despatch No. 428 of the 30th ultimo to await the answer of the Italian Government before taking any definitive step, and the above answer has removed the cause of the delay, I have requested you by telegraph to proceed at once, in the way pointed out in that despatch, to make, through the Austro-Hungarian Government, the necessary communication to Prince Charles.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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their guests repelled them with fire-arms, killing one and wounding several. The transition from a quarrel between Mahommedans to one against Christians was easy, and it was only through the influence of the better class of the Moslems of Jacova that a truce of eight days to inquire into the origin of the fight was obtained. The threats of the evil-disposed, however, were so violent that the Christians found it prudent to withdraw in the interval to neighbouring Christian villages. This exodus has helped to spread an impression that a feud has arisen between the two religions, and the alarm of the Christians has been greatly increased by the numerous murders and exactions committed by mountaineers who, for the moment, are called brigands, but who are, in reality, those who are administering the "mountain law," and who assert that they have replaced the Sultan's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 41.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 5.)

(No. 22. Political.)

Salonica, June 22, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of Mr. Longworth's despatch relative to an outrage which has been perpetrated by brigands on an Austro-Hungarian subject in Thessaly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 41.

Vice-Consul Longworth to Consul-General Blunt.

Larissa, June 18, 1879.

Sir,

ON the 12th instant, whilst at Volo, I received a telegram from a certain Georgi Vassily, of Tricalla, soliciting my aid, as his father, an Austrian subject named Nicola Vassily, had been seized by brigands.

On receipt of the telegram I at once communicated it to M. Marichich, the Austro-Hungarian Vice-Consul residing at Volo.

I have now to report that Nicola Vassily, aged 50, together with his two companions and a driver, were caught on the 8th instant by three Toska Albanian brigands whilst travelling in a van between Larissa and Tricalla. The driver was allowed to proceed on his way, but the other three were secured and taken to the adjacent hills and mountains of the village of Zarko.

A ransom of C T. 250 was demanded from Nicola Vassily, and one of the hostages was released by the brigands on the following day in order to carry a letter from him to his son in Tricalla. Georgi Vassily was asked in it by his father to collect, if possible, the required sum from among friends, and deliver it over to the bearer, so as it should be paid to one of the brigands, who would be lurking for the purpose in the vicinity of Tricalla.

On the 13th of the month, about noon, as the two remaining brigands were fast asleep in a forest near Zarko, Vassily, getting his arms loosened by his fellow-prisoner, seized a sabre, and severely wounded both brigands, although, unhappily, as he was making his escape, one of them drew a pistol and shot him dead through the chest.

His companion, however, tied as he was, saved himself, and has since furnished the authorities of Tricalla a verbal deposition of the whole case.

It appears also that Nicola Vassily, when stopped by the brigands, threw out of the van a gold ring and a purse containing about 40*l*. The driver maintains that he only knows where the ring was thrown, but the two companions of Vassily declare that the money was thrown out together with the ring, and consequently this is also being carefully examined into by the Turkish authorities of Larissa and Tricalla.

Until now none of the brigands have been caught, although the Mushir Ahdy is doing his utmost. A body of cavalry under an able and trustworthy officer has been

dispatched in pursuit of the wounded brigands, and orders have been issued to the military posts in those parts that a strict and diligent search be made for them.

The substance of this report I have also this day furnished to my Austrian colleague at Volo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 42.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 23. Political.)

Salonica, June 22, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a despatch, with one inclosure, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting the proceedings of armed bands of Bulgarians in the Saudjak of Drama, and the evacuation of Djuma by the Russian troops, who left the place in possession of the Bulgarians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 42.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Salonica, June 22, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Excellency copy of a despatch from the Acting British Vice-Consul at Cavalla, relative to the recent appearance and proceedings of armed Bulgarian bands in his district.

I regret to say that M. Pecchioli's account is confirmed by the most recent telegraphic despatches which Safvet Pasha, the Field Marshal commanding the troops in Macedonia, has received from the Commandants of Serres and Menlik, who also report that the Russians have unexpectedly evacuated the district of Djuma, leaving it in the possession of the Bulgarians.

Safvet Pasha is very much annoyed at the off-hand manner in which the Russians have acted in this matter; as he had expected, in the interests of the inhabitants, and in order to prevent eventual embarrassments, that they would have come to an understanding with him for their surrender of the local administration to the Ottoman authorities before evacuating the district.

As his Excellency anticipates that the revival of the Turkish rule in that district will meet with serious resistance on the part of the Bulgarians, he has telegraphed the circumstances to the Porte, representing the urgent need of dispatching a considerable force to Djuma, to establish and support the Turkish Administration and to prevent any collision with the people, and has asked for reinforcements, as he has no available troops for the purpose.

As the district referred to continues to be one of the principal and most active centres of the Slav Committees, and of armed and lawless bands, who are employed in insurrectionary movements in Macedonia, it is in the manifest interest of the Porte that it should be occupied at once, and its Administration placed in proper and efficient hands; otherwise the disturbing elements it contains may develop and organize themselves for further agitation and disturbances in this province.

As it is, the bands referred to by M. Pecchioli are said to have crossed over from Djuma the very day the Russians withdrew from there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 42.

Dr. Pecchioli to Consul-General Blunt.

Cavalla, le 16 Juin, 1879.

Monsieur,

JE crois mon devoir de porter à votre connaissance certaines nouvelles arrivées par lettre à mon collègue de Grèce, sans toutefois pouvoir, au moins pour le moment, en garantir la vérité.

On dit que des bandes Bulgares parcourent et battent les environs de Serres, armées parfaitement de Martini.

Dernièrement une compagnie de négociants qui marchaient en Caravane accompagnée d'une escorte de Zaptiehs aurait été arrêtée par une de ces bandes. Le Chef, après avoir mis en fuite les Zaptiehs, aurait ramassé l'argent des négociants, qui faisait une somme assez ronde (100,000 piastres) et aurait reproché aux négociants avoir pris des Zaptiehs Turcs en *terre Bulgare*; tandis que c'etait les Bulgares qui protégeaient les voyageurs et avaient soin de la sûreté publique; et en preuve de la vérité de ce qu'il avançait il aurait *rendu l'argent tout entier!* Si cela est vrai ces bandes doivent pour sûr avoir un caractère politique.

On dit qu'à Iridéré, Casa de Drama, une autre bande aurait assaillie, dévastée et complétement saccagée la maison du Grec Epirote, Comboti.

Cette même maison avait été visité par les voleurs il y a quelque temps, lorsque son propriétaire fut emporté par eux, et on ignore même à présent son sort.

Comme le Grec Comboti a été Dimier et on le disait très-dûr envers les pauvres, il me semble que cette affaire n'est pas de nature politique mais plutôt de vengeance personnelle.

On dit encore que dans les villages près de Zilma, Saudjac de Drama, outre la propagande Bulgare on commence à remarquer un certain mouvement dans l'élément Vlach.

On dit que des émissaires Roumains ont passé par-la, et que les Koutzo-Vlach qui habitent les villages commençent à demander des écoles en langue Vlach, &c.

Si vera sunt exposita il ne manquerait pas de voir se disputer le terrain de la Macédoine entre Bulgares, Roumains, Serbes, et Monténégrins, sans parler des Grecs:—

Je ne manquerais pas, M. Le Consul-Général, de vous faire savoir après ce qu'il y a de vrai dans ces nouvelles, qui forment le sujet actuel des discours de la ville.

Agréez, &c.
Le Gérant Vice-Consul,
(Signé) Dr. PECCHIOLI.

No. 43.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 24. Political.)

Salonica, June 24, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch with a copy of its inclosure which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, relative to the manner in which the régime of military law is administered in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 43.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Salonica, June 24, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to the suggestion which I ventured to address to your Excellency in my despatch of the 9th instant, relative to the desirableness of the Porte pursuing a policy of conciliation towards the inhabitants of this province in lieu of the present régime of military law, I have the honour to inclose herewith copy of a report

of Colonel Synge upon the proceedings of the Court Martial assembled at Salonica as affecting the district of Verin.

The account Colonel Synge gives is a fair illustration of the vexatious and oppressive manner in which military law is administered in Macedonia, and confirms the complaints and unpopularity arising therefrom among the Christian inhabitants who, as I have already had occasion to report to your Excellency, are quiet and not prepared to take part in insurrectionary movements on the side of Bulgaria or Greece.

I am assured that among the many persons undergoing punishment in the local convict prison there are several who have been convicted of furnishing provisions to the brigands.

But the circumstances under which they did so are so extenuating that it would have been both just and humane if the Court had acquitted them of blame.

Under the system of terrorism which is kept up by the brigands it is not surprising that peasants or shepherds, in isolated or unprotected villages, should comply with their requisitions, for, if they refuse to do so, they are either murdered or their homes and crops are ruthlessly destroyed, while, in the contrary case, they are apprehended and punished by the military.

They naturally prefer running the risk of the less serious of these impending dangers, and thus the country people are completely at the mercy of the brigands, and it is hopeless to expect that this crying evil can be extirpated, or even sensibly diminished by the military régime as at present administered.

I regret also having to further report to your Excellency that the civil authorities continue to employ in the police of the rural districts Bashi-Bazouks, or, as they are now called "Kirserlars" and "Muavinch Askers" (rural guards and volunteers), many of whom have been recruited from notorious and desperate bands of robbers, who recently made their submission to the authorities, and who connive at the acts of the lawless classes and share their booty. I have reason to believe that some of the provincial Military Commanders have on more than one occasion represented to the Seraskier, Osman Pasha, the danger and bad policy of having recourse to these irregulars and doubtful characters, but to no good purpose, for I now learn that the Kaïmakam of Veria is actually enrolling Circassian volunteers in the rural police of that district, which circumstance I have been requested by some of the village communities to bring under the notice of your Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 43.

Colonel Synge to Consul-General Blunt.

Veria, June 14, 1879.

Sir,

THE following particulars having come particularly under my notice as occurring in a district in which I am a proprietor, and the persons and circumstances being well-known to me, I have the honour to lay them before you:—

Early in the present year a band of brigands, under the leadership of a Greek, but consisting entirely of worthless inhabitants of the neighbouring villages, took up their abode in the forest and swamp lying between Yenidjé Vardar and Veria, from the former place carrying off a Turkish inhabitant, for whose ransom they received some 200 liras.

Stringent measures having been taken, the band dispersed, several of its members returning to their villages, where they were seized. They were brought before the Court-Martial of Salonica, and on the evidence obtained from them numerous arrests were made throughout the district on the charges of supplying the brigands with provisions.

At that time no protection was afforded to the villagers, and those were selected by the brigands whose dwellings were isolated, or who owned flocks of sheep or cattle which were at their mercy.

Cases so frequently occur of the brigands taking a fearful revenge on persons betraying them, that it is not to be wondered at that little hesitation is shown in acquiescing with their demands.

Recently a well-to-do villager of Rendim in this district gave information to the officer in command of the troops there that he had been requisitioned for bread,

which he refused to furnish. He was murdered just outside his village shortly afterwards.

I am informed that an order was issued by the Porte to the civil authorities instructing them to deal leniently with such cases, as when provisions were furnished by brigands through fear, but the General in command at Salonica, his Excellency Salih Pasha, told me that he had received orders from the Seraskierate that sentences from four months to fifteen years' imprisonment were to be inflicted.

The dealings with criminals have been most fantastic. Two brigands of the band above mentioned made their submission, were pardoned by the Governor-General, received a document to that effect, and returned to their village, but were shortly afterwards arrested by the military authorities and lodged in prison.

It has been too generally the case that the actual brigands have been allowed to make their submission, receive a pardon, return to their villages, and live happily on the fruits of their crimes, affording a bad precedent and example to the younger members of the community, and rendering more apparent the injustice in dealing severely with those who, through fear and in the absence of adequate protection, fulfil the demands of the brigands.

The following are the names of some of these persons and their villages, and they have now been imprisoned since the early part of the year:—

1, Diamoudis; 2, Karyanni; 3, Dimitri Costa, of the village of Skaliz; 4, Papa Ghiorgi, of Nissi; 5, Pappa Nicola Platee; and 6, Leilas, of Geetha.

I would add that this portion of the district took no part in the disturbance of last year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. SYNGE.

No. 44.

Colonel Sillarne to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 34.)

Galatz, June 27, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward Protocol 331 of the Danube Commission, with the following observation on Section 2, which refers to the subject of Sulina having been declared a free port by the Roumanian authorities.

It was shown that, notwithstanding this declaration, taxes are levied by the Municipality of the town on all articles landed, even those destined for the use of the Commission and its employés, and Baron de Haan requested the Roumanian Delegate to state whether his Government admitted without restriction the consequences of Article LIII of the Treaty of Berlin.

M. Rosean replied in the affirmative, but that he had received no instructions as to the interpretation of that Article respecting customs dues at Sulina, and that his own opinion differed from that expressed in the Commission.

M. Rosean remarked that although Sulina was a free port as regarded the ordinary customs of the Government, he considered the Municipality had a right to levy taxes on goods landed in the town.

I remarked that it was necessary to establish the fact that Sulina no longer enjoyed the franchise secured to it under the Turkish Administration.

This immunity had been obtained for it by the action of the Commission, and solicited by it from the motive that Sulina was exclusively a port for revictualling and coaling vessels, and for transhipping merchandize. I maintained that it could not be disputed that the Treaty of Berlin was not carried into execution, as far as regarded the exemption from customs dues of the port of Sulina.

The Roumanian Delegate observed that Sulina was now to be governed by Roumanian and not Turkish laws, and that if the Commission wished to establish an exceptional state of affairs at that port, he must refer the matter to his Government.

M. Herbette recognized that the establishing an exceptional rule at Sulina, might be a delicate point for the Roumanian Government, but he, nevertheless, thought that International Conventions should be strictly carried out. He showed that exceptional rules might be applied to Sulina, inasmuch as that port is itself an exception, an artificial creation of the Commission, an establishment exclusively devoted to the service of the navigation, and that of all Governments the Roumania: was the most interested in maintaining the state of affairs which had so largely contributed to develop this navigation.

M. Herbette hoped that the Roumanian authorities would find the request of the Commission to be legitimate, and in accordance with the true interests of their country.

I further remarked that the Ottoman Government had also applied an exceptional rule to the port of Sulina, and that this rule ought to be maintained in its integrity in the new situation resulting from the Treaty of Berlin.

M. Rescan agreed to submit the question to his Government in the sense enunciated by the French Delegate.

M. Herbette then proposed the following motion:—

"Considering that complete franchise from customs dues constitutes a special privilege of the whole town of Sulina" (that is both of the employés of the Commission and of the inhabitants), "and that the interests of the navigation demanded the maintenance of this privilege, the Commission begs the Roumanian Government to take these considerations into account, and thinks it desirable to recommend to its attention the necessity of respecting, with regard to the said port, the previous condition of affairs, which has been confirmed by the Treaty of Berlin."

Baron de Haan thought it desirable that each Delegate should report the matter to his Government, with a view to obtaining a direct action of the Powers at Bucharest.

M. Herbette considered it preferable to await the result of this communication to the Roumanian authorities.

His motion was then adopted.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. T. SIBORNE, *Colonel, R.E.,*
British Commissioner on Danube.

Inclosure in No. 44.

COMMISSION EUROPÉENNE DU DANUBE.

Protocole No. 331.—2e *Séance du* 26 *Mai*, 1879.

(Extrait.)

Présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Dr. Arendt.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Baron de Haan.

Pour la France—
M. Herbette.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. Siborne.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Chevalier Simondetti.

Pour la Roumanie—
M. G. Rescan.

Pour la Russie—
M. A. Nommenko.

Pour la Turquie—
Constantin Effendi Et. Carathéodory

§ 2. Il est donné lecture de deux notes adressées à la Commission par le Délégué de Roumanie, le 13 Janvier, 1879, et le 3 Mars de la même année, desquelles il résulte que le Conseil des Ministres de Son Altesse Royale le Prince de Roumanie a décidé de régler la situation douanière du port de Soulina, en lui accordant les droits et les franchises propres à un port franc; que par un Décret Princier, la dite ville a été en effet déclarée port-franc, à partir du 1er Mars, 1879, (v.s.), et qu'en ce qui concerne les marchandises en destination ou en provenance de ce port, il sera procédé comme pour les ports de Braïla et de Galatz.

La Commission prend acte de ces communications, et se référant à la réponse qu'elle a adressée au Délégué de Roumanie, sous la date du 31 Janvier, elle exprime de nouveau l'espoir que la franchise dont elle a joui jusqu'à présent, pour l'importation du matériel et des matériaux destinés à ses travaux, continuera à lui être assurée dans les autres ports de son ressort.

Il est ensuite donné lecture d'un Rapport en date du 16 Mars courant, par lequel le Directeur de la Caisse de Navigation en réfère à la Commission, touchant la perception des taxes imposées, au profit de la Municipalité de Soulina, sur des objets de consommation destinés à l'usage de la Commission et de ses employés.

Le Délégué d'Autriche-Hongrie dit que la question qui fait l'objet du Rapport du Directeur de la Caisse de Navigation se rattache à une autre question d'une certaine portée. Il fait remarquer, que s'il résulte des communications du Délégué de Roumanie que la franchise douanière acquise au port de Soulina et constituant, suivant les opinions qui ont été exprimées au sein de la Commission, un de ces droits et privilèges formellement confirmés par le Traité de Berlin, est aujourd'hui reconnue par le Gouvernement territorial, le susdit port a été néanmoins soumis, pendant trois mois, au paiement des taxes douanières Roumaines, et de plus, que la question de la franchise, résolue administrativement, ne l'est pas encore législativement; enfin, que le personnel de la Commission est assujetti, en fait, au paiement de droits d'entrée, dont il était entièrement exempt sous le régime antérieur.

M. le Baron de Haan se croit donc autorisé à poser la question de savoir, si pour ce qui touche les immunités douanières du port de Soulina, le Gouvernement Roumain admet sans restriction les conséquences de l'Article LIII du Traité de Berlin; il prie le Délégué de Roumanie de vouloir bien s'expliquer sur ce point, et de faire savoir s'il est en mesure de dire à quel point de vue son Gouvernement se place, quant à la dite question.

Le Délégué de Roumanie répond que le Gouvernement Princier accepte sans hésitation les conséquences du Traité sans lequel son Délégué n'aurait pas l'honneur de participer aux travaux de la Commission, et qu'il ne fait aucune exception pour les clauses de l'Article LIII: qu'en ce qui concerne l'interprétation de cet Article et son application à la situation douanière du port de Soulina, le Délégué Roumain n'a pas reçu d'instructions, mais que son opinion personnelle diffère de celle qui a été exprimée au sein de la Commission, et que M. le Baron de Haan vient de reproduire. M. Rescan fait remarquer que Soulina est déclaré port franc, de même que Galatz et Braïla, que la taxe, dont il est question dans le Rapport adressé à la Commission, est une taxe municipale: que d'ailleurs, le paiement de cette taxe paraît avoir été exigé, non de la Commission elle-même, mais d'un employé de son service, pour des objets de consommation destinés à un usage privé. Il croit, que dans ces conditions, la taxe était légitimement due, mais il est prêt à soumettre la question à l'appréciation de son Gouvernement et à demander des instructions.

Le Délégué de la Grande Bretagne croit devoir constater le fait que Soulina ne jouit plus toutes les franchises douanières qui lui avaient été assurées sous la précédente Administration. Mr. le Colonel Siborne n'établit, sous ce rapport, aucune distinction entre le personnel de la Commission et les habitants de la ville en général, mais il rappelle que sous le régime Ottoman, les importations et les exportations étaient absolument franches, sauf un petit nombre d'objets explicitement désignés; que cette franchise avait été obtenue sur le vœu formel de la Commission, et sollicitée par le motif que Soulina est exclusivement un port de ravitaillement et de transbordement, dépourvu de commerce propre, et tout autre intérêt que celui de faciliter les opérations générales du commerce maritime du Danube. Le Délégué de la Grande Bretagne croit qu'il est incontestable que le Traité de Berlin n'est pas exécuté, pour ce qui concerne la franchise douanière du dit port.

Le Délégué de Roumanie pense qu'il faut s'entendre sur les conditions auxquelles la cession de la Dobroudja a été rattachée. Suivant son opinion, la Roumanie possède aujourd'hui ce territoire pour l'administrer, non d'après les lois Ottomanes, mais d'après les lois Roumaines; il relève que l'on n'a pas fait autre chose qu'appliquer au port de Soulina les lois de tous les autres ports Roumains; que par la force même des choses, les impôts Roumains différeront des impôts Ottomans, et que pour qu'il en fût autrement, il serait nécessaire d'instituer à Soulina un régime d'exception. Il dit, que si la Commission s'arrêtait à une pareille conclusion, il devrait se borner à la prendre *ad referendum*, en faisant toutes ses réserves.

Le Délégué de France ne méconnaît pas ce qu'il peut y avoir de délicat pour le Gouvernement Roumain, dans l'application d'un régime exceptionnel à Soulina, et il se rend compte des difficultés que ce Gouvernement rencontrera dans les premiers temps.

Il croit, néanmoins, qu'il faudra obtenir, à un moment donné, l'application des Conventions internationales, dans toute leur teneur. Suivant l'opinion de M. Herbette, il ne résulte pas forcément, du fait que certaines taxes sont imposées par la loi dans le port de Galatz ou dans celui de Braïla, que ces mêmes taxes doivent être également appliquées à Soulina. Il fait ressortir qu'un régime exceptionnel peut être établi, pour ce dernier port, avec d'autant plus de raison, que Soulina lui-même est une exception, une création artificielle de la Commission, une sorte d'établissement exclusivement affecté aux besoins de la navigation; que de tous les Gouvernements, le Gouvernement Roumain est le plus intéressé à faciliter cette navigation, et par suite à maintenir un état de choses qui a grandement contribué à la développer. Le Délégué de France ne saurait croire que le sentiment national de la Roumanie puisse en être froissé, et il espère que le Gouvernement Princier, appréciant la question dans toute sa portée, trouvera la demande de la Commission légitime et conforme aux véritables intérêts économiques du pays.

Le Délégué de la Grande Bretagne fait remarquer que le Gouvernement Ottoman avait, lui aussi, appliqué au port de Soulina un régime exceptionnel: il n'est pas douteux, suivant son opinion, que ce régime ne doive être maintenu intégralement dans la nouvelle situation créée par le Traité de Berlin.

Le Délégué de Roumanie dit qu'il ne se refuse pas à soumettre la question à son Gouvernement, dans le sens des idées émises par le Délégué de France.

M. Herbette propose d'adopter la motion suivante:

"Considérant que la franchise entière constituait un privilége spécial à toute la ville de Soulina, et que l'intérêt de la navigation réclame le maintien de ce privilége, la Commission prie le Gouvernement Roumain de vouloir bien tenir compte des considérations qu'elle lui expose, et elle croit devoir recommander à son attention la nécessité de respecter, à l'égard du dit port, l'état de choses antérieur, confirmé par le Traité de Berlin."

Le Délégué d'Autriche-Hongrie pense qu'il convient également que chaque Délégué porte la question devant son Gouvernement, afin d'amener une action directe des Puissances auprès du Gouvernement Roumain.

Le Délégué de France fait remarquer que cette action directe ne sera pas nécessaire, si le Gouvernement Roumain se rend spontanément, comme il n'est pas défendu de l'espérer, aux vues de la Commission; il croit qu'il est préférable de se réserver d'en référer à tous les Gouvernements, pour le cas où ces vues ne seraient pas admises à Bukarest.

La motion du Délégué de France est adoptée, sous la réserve de tous les droits.

(Signé) ARENDT.
E. DE HAAN.
JULES HERBETTE.
H. T. SIBORNE.
M. SIMONDETTI.
G. RESCAN.
A. ROMANENKO.
CONST. ET CARATHÉODORY.

No. 45.

Colonel Siborne to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 38.) *Galatz, June 30, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to again forward Protocols 327 (with Annex), 330, and 332 of the Danube Commission, with observations on those portions of them referring to the adjournment of the Amendment of the Public Act.

Protocol 327, § 2 (page 10).—The Austrian Delegate said that, his Government having come to an understanding with the other Governments represented on the Commission as to the adjournment of several questions inserted in the programme of the present Session, he had been charged to make the following proposition:—

"The Commission decides that the revision of the Public Act, the elaboration of the Police and Navigation Regulations for the part of the Danube between Galatz and the Iron Gates, as also the decision to be taken regarding the Sanitary Service at Sulina, are to be adjourned to the Autumn Session, or to an extraordinary Session, to be agreed upon according to circumstances."

The German, Italian, Roumanian, and Russian Delegates adhered to the proposed postponement.

The French Commissioner also agreed to it, but remarked that there was no connection between the revising of the Public Act, which included the reorganization of the Sanitary Service at Sulina, and the preparation of the Regulations for the part of the river between Galatz and the Iron Gates.

As the placing of the Public Act in harmony with the Treaty of Berlin was of peculiar interest to the Commission, inasmuch as it touched upon the subject of its jurisdiction, M. Herbette hoped that the question would be definitely settled next Session, and asked that his project for modifying the Act by some additional Articles (reported on in my letter to your Lordship No. 19 of the 24th April) should be annexed to the Protocol, which was agreed to.

In accordance with the instructions conveyed in your Lordship's despatch No. 10 of the 7th May, I also adhered to Baron de Haan's proposal, but expressed a hope that the discussion of the Act would shortly take place, as the jurisdiction of the Commission is meanwhile subject to dispute on the part of persons engaged in the navigation. In proof of this observation, I mentioned the fact of the validity of a police fine having been contested because the sentence ran in the name of the Commission, instead of that of the Sultan, as the present published Act requires.

After a discussion as to how far the postponing the revision of the Public Act would operate similarly on the Police and Navigation Rules which emanate from it, the Ottoman Delegate stated that he was as yet without instructions, but thought it necessary to reserve in their integrity the rights of the Porte as regarded all the clauses of the Public Act of 1865 which are not contrary to the Treaty of Berlin, and which have not yet been reversed.

Protocol 330, § 2.—In consequence of Baron de Haan's proposal above mentioned, it was decided that the following questions should be withdrawn from the programme of the present Session:—

1. The revision of the Public Act of the 2nd November, 1865, and its two Annexes—the Police and Navigation Regulations, and the enacting part of the Tariff of Dues (the dues themselves not having been referred to in the proposed revision).
2. The revision of the General Instructions to the Captain of the port of Sulina and the Inspector of the Navigation, the latter comprising, amongst other subjects, the extension of the Police Superintendence to Galatz.
3. The question of the Sanitary Service at Sulina.
4. The creation of an independent Bureau de Vérification at Sulina.

Respecting this, I have already reported to your Lordship in my letter No. 32 of the 26th instant.

5. Revision of the Instructions to the Engineer and the Directors of the Marine Hospital and Navigation Cash Office, Instructions relating either to the extension of the jurisdiction of the Commission or to the Sanitary Service at Sulina.
6. Preparation of the Regulations for the Navigation between Galatz and the Iron Gates.

Protocol 332, § 1.—The Ottoman Delegate declared that he was authorised to adhere to the proposed adjournment of the revision of the Public Act.

He said that his Government was persuaded that this revision would be within the strict limits of the charges imposed by the Treaty of Berlin, and, without prejudice to the guarantees acquired by the Porte as to the financial engagements of the Commission, which constitute prior liabilities.

The Russian Delegate, who, in Protocol 327, voted for the adjournment without reserve, now thought it necessary to state more precisely the nature of his adhesion, and said that it did not imply, on his part, the necessity of revising the Public Act. M. Romanenko called to mind that the Act ought not to undergo any changes as regarded its essence, and that it ought to remain intact, except with respect to the modifications, rendered absolutely indispensable by the Treaty of Berlin. These modifications, in his opinion, should bear solely on points of form and not of principle, and it was in this sense only that he understood the word "revision," as applied to the Public Act, which, as had been well said by M. Herbette, should simply be placed in harmony with the said Treaty.

It is to be feared that this declaration may indicate fresh complications in the future discussions of the subject, and the Austrian proposal for adjournment is, therefore, the more to be regretted.

It will also be seen, from the above quotation from Protocol 330, how many other unsettled questions are involved in this postponement.

On the other hand, I am persuaded that M. Herbette's project of amendment might have been passed without difficulty in the late Session.

In addition to the reports on this subject in my letter above quoted, I would beg to direct your Lordship's attention, also, to that contained in No. 23 of the 3rd May, as it is evident that the proposal for adjournment results from the objections raised against Baron de Haan's project for revising the Public Act.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. T. SIBORNE, *Colonel, R.E.,*
British Commissioner on Danube.

Inclosure 1 in No. 45.

COMMISSION EUROPÉENNE DU DANUBE.

Protocole No. 327.—Séance du 17 Mai, 1879.

(Extrait.)

Présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Dr. Arendt.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Baron de Haan.

Pour la France—
M. Herbette.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. Siborne.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Chevalier Simondetti.

Pour la Roumanie—
M. G. Resen.

Pour la Russie—
M. A. Romanenko.

Pour la Turquie—
Constantin Effendi Et. Carathéodory.

§ 2. *Le Délégué d'Autriche-Hongrie* dit que son Gouvernement s'étant entendu avec les autres Gouvernements représentés au sein de la Commission, sur l'ajournement de diverses questions portées sur le programme de la Session actuelle, il a été chargé de faire la proposition suivante :—

"La Commission décide que la révision de l'Acte Public, l'élaboration des règlements de police et de navigation, pour la partie du Danube entre Galatz et les Portes de Fer, ainsi que la décision à prendre sur le Service Sanitaire de Soulina, seront ajournées à la Session d'automne, éventuellement à une Session extraordinaire, pour laquelle on s'entendrait selon les circonstances."

Le Délégué d'Allemagne dit qu'il est autorisé à adhérer sans réserve à cette proposition.

Le Délégué d'Italie déclare qu'il est également autorisé à y adhérer.

Le Délégué de France adhère à l'ajournement proposé, mais il fait remarquer qu'il n'y aucune connexité à établir entre la révision de l'Acte Public, qui comprend la réorganisation du Service Sanitaire à Soulina, et la préparation du règlement de navigation et de surveillance entre Galatz et les Portes de Fer.

La mise en harmonie de l'Acte Public avec le Traité de Berlin offrant pour la Commission Européenne un intérêt particulier, car elle touche à l'exercice de sa juridiction, *M. Herbette* exprime l'espoir que cette question, dont les lignes principales ont été tracées dans la dernière Session plénière (Protocole No. 323), pourra être

définitivement résolue lors de la prochaine Session, et il demande que le projet d'arrangement additionnel à l'Acte Public qu'il a communiqué au Comité Exécutif, le 12 Avril dernier, soit annexé au Protocole, à titre de document à consulter lors de la discussion.

Le Délégué d'Autriche-Hongrie rappelle que le Comité avait été chargé, non de proposer un acte additionnel à l'Acte Public de 1865, mais de préparer une révision générale de cet acte. *Le Délégué de France* répond à cette observation que la révision, dont le Comité a été chargé par la décision prise dans la dernière Session, avait pour seul objet, de même que la révision du règlement intérieur, de mettre l'Acte Public en accord avec le Traité de Berlin.

Le Président fait observer que la motion du Délégué de France, de joindre sa communication du 12 Avril au présent Protocole, est admise avec la réserve qu'elle est annexée à titre de document à consulter.

Le Délégué de la Grande Bretagne se rallie à la proposition du Délégué d'Autriche-Hongrie, mais il croit devoir exprimer l'espoir que la discussion de l'Acte Public aura du moins lieu dans une Session très-prochaine, attendu que par une conséquence des dispositions du Traité de Berlin, la juridiction de la Commission est, en ce moment même, sujette à être contestée par les navigateurs. Il cite, comme exemple à l'appui de cette observation, le fait d'un jugement de police dont la validité a été critiquée, par le motif que ce jugement avait été rendu au nom de la Commission Européenne, au lieu de l'être au nom de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, ainsi que le prescrit l'Acte Public en vigueur.

Le Délégué d'Autriche-Hongrie dit qu'il considère la question de la juridiction comme une question tranchée, en théorie par le Traité de Berlin, et quant à l'application, par les dispositions déjà prises par la Commission elle-même. Il pense aussi que les inconvénients de l'état transitoire actuel seraient atténués, si l'on procédait à la révision des instructions générales au Capitaine du port de Soulina et à l'Inspecteur de la navigation ; il est d'avis que la Commission pourrait réviser ces Instructions, sur la base des décisions prises dans la dernière Session, et ce, sans attendre la révision de l'Acte Public.

Le Délégué de France fait remarquer que les Instructions Générales sont le complément du règlement de navigation et de police, annexé lui même à l'Acte Public, et que les dispositions des dites Instructions découlent directement de celles de cet Acte ; il ne croit pas que leur révision puisse précéder celle de l'Acte Public.

Le Délégué de la Grande Bretagne ayant posé la question de savoir si l'ajournement proposé aurait pour conséquence de faire ajourner également le placement des bouées entre Isaktcha et Galatz, *M. le Baron de Haan* exprime l'opinion que le placement de ces bouées a été l'objet d'une décision prise dans la dernière Session plénière, décision qui est définitive et qui doit être exécutée.

Le Délégué d'Allemagne considère également les décisions prises dans la dernière Session comme constituant des points acquis, non-seulement pour ce qui touche les bouées, mais encore à l'égard du Capitaine du Port de Soulina et de l'Inspecteur de la Navigation ; il fait ressortir que la première de toutes les nécessités est celle d'assurer la marche des différents services de la Commission.

Le Délégué Ottoman admet pleinement cette nécessité de mettre à exécution les décisions prises, mais il fait remarquer que toute loi ou Convention, aussi longtemps qu'elle n'est pas modifiée, doit être appliquée suivant sa forme et teneur.

Le Délégué de France rappelle, à ce propos, la distinction, qu'il a eu déjà l'occasion d'établir, entre des décisions modifiant le régime intérieur de la Commission, prises en conséquence du Traité du Berlin, et d'autres modifications proposées, mais ne découlant pas nécessairement du dit Traité ; il dit que les premières sont incontestablement acquises à titre définitif et doivent être appliquées, comme s'imposant à la Commission par autorité supérieure.

Le Délégué Ottoman dit que la Sublime Porte aborde sans aucune arrière pensée la révision de l'Acte Public ; que dans un esprit de conciliation et de déférence pour les décisions du *plenum*, il n'a fait l'an passé aucune opposition à l'exécution des mesures arrêtées par la Commission, touchant la présidence ou le placement de bouées dans la nouvelle partie de son ressort fluvial, placement qui est formellement contraire aux prévisions du dernier alinéa de l'Article 14 de l'Acte Public ; mais il croit nécessaire de réserver les droits de la Sublime Porte, dans leur intégrité, à l'égard de toutes les clauses de l'Acte Public de 1865, qui ne sont pas contraires au Traité de Berlin et qui n'ont pas encore été révisées. Constantin Effendi exprime l'opinion qu'en présence de la proposition d'ajournement faite par le Délégué d'Autriche-Hongrie, il y aurait lieu d'ajourner également la plupart des questions portées au programme de la présente

Session. Il se réserve, d'ailleurs, n'ayant pas encore reçu d'instructions de son Gouvernement, de se prononcer sur la dite proposition dans une prochaine séance.

Les Délégués de Roumanie et de Russie adhèrent à l'ajournement proposé.

Fait à Galatz, le 17 Mai, 1879.

(Signé) ARENDT.
E. DE HAAN.
JULES HERBETTE.
H. T. SIBORNE.
M. SIMONDETTI.
G. RESCAN.
A. ROMANENKO.
CONST. ET. CARATHÉODORY.

Annexe au Protocole No. 327.

Projet de Dispositions additionnelles à l'Acte Public relatif à la Navigation des Embouchures du Danube, destinées à mettre ledit acte en harmonie avec le Traité de Berlin du 13 Juillet, 1878; présenté à la Commission par le Délégué de France.

"MM. et chers Collègues, *Paris, le 12 Avril*, 1879.

"L'étude de l'avant-projet d'Acte Public révisé, que vous avez bien voulu me transmettre le 11 du mois dernier, et les réserves qu'il a motivées de la part de M. le Délégué de Russie, m'ont convaincu de l'avantage qu'il y aurait à laisser intact l'Acte du 2 Novembre, 1865, sauf à le mettre, au moyen d'un arrangement additionnel, en harmonie avec l'état de choses créé par le Traité de Berlin.

"Pour mieux préciser mes idées à cet égard, j'ai été amené à formuler le Projet que j'ai l'honneur de vous communiquer ci-joint, à titre de document à consulter lors de la discussion dont la révision de l'Acte Public serait l'objet dans le prochain *plenum*.

"Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) "JULES HERBETTE."

Projet.

Les Puissances représentées au sein de la Commission Européenne du Danube, en vertu du Traité de Paris du 30 Mars, 1856, et la Roumanie, qui a été appelée à en faire partie par l'Article LIII du Traité de Berlin, du 13 Juillet, 1878;

Désirant mettre l'Acte Public du 2 Novembre, 1865, relatif à la navigation des embouchures du Danube, en harmonie avec les stipulations du Traité de Berlin, aux termes desquelles la dite Commission Européenne exercera dorénavant ses fonctions, jusqu'à Galatz, dans une complète indépendance de l'autorité territoriale, et tous les Traités, arrangements, actes, et décisions relatifs à ses droits, privilèges, prérogatives, et obligations sont confirmés;

Ont nommé pour leurs Plénipotentiaires MM.

lesquels, après avoir produit leurs pleins-pouvoirs, trouvés en bonne et due forme, et dont une copie certifiée est restée déposée dans les archives de la Commission Européenne, sont convenus des dispositions additionnelles suivantes au susdit Acte Public du 2 Novembre, 1865:

Article 1er. Les droits, attributions et privilèges de la Commission Européenne du Danube, tels qu'ils résultent des Traités de Paris, du 30 Mars, 1856, et de Londres, du 13 Mars, 1871, de l'Acte Public du 2 Novembre, 1865, ainsi que des actes et décisions antérieurs au Traité de Berlin, du 13 Juillet, 1878, continueront à régir ses rapports avec les nouveaux Etats riverains, et leur effet s'étendra jusqu'à Galatz, sauf les modifications ci-après spécifiées.

Art. 2. L'agent spécialement préposé à la police du fleuve, en aval de Galatz, et à l'exclusion du Port de Soulina, portera dorénavant le titre d'Inspecteur de la Navigation du Bas-Danube, et sera, comme par le passé, assisté d'un Chancelier et de surveillants répartis sur les différentes sections fluviales de son ressort, et tous placés sous ses ordres.

L'Inspecteur de la Navigation, le Chancelier de l'Inspection, ainsi que les Surveillants des Sections Fluviales, le Capitaine du Port de Soulina, et tout le personnel placé

sous les ordres de ce dernier sont nommés par la Commission, à la simple majorité des voix et sans distinction de nationalité. Ils peuvent également être révoqués par elle.

L'Inspecteur de la Navigation et le Capitaine du Port de Soulina remplissent leurs fonctions sous l'autorité directe de la Commission, entre les mains de laquelle ils prêtent, ainsi que leurs subordonnés, le serment d'office.

Ils prononcent, en qualité de Juges de Première Instance, sur les contraventions commises, dans l'étendue de leurs ressorts respectifs, en matière de police de la navigation, et leurs jugements sont rendus au nom de la Commission Européenne du Danube.

Art. 3. Le contrôle des opérations de la Caisse de Navigation de Soulina ne sera plus confié à un agent spécial: il sera exclusivement exercé par la Commission Européenne ou par l'autorité qui lui succédera, et ce, dans la forme qui est ou sera déterminé par les dites Commission ou autorité.

Art. 4. La disposition finale de l'Article 14 de l'Acte Public de 1865 est modifiée en ce sens, que l'interdiction d'employer aucune partie des sommes produites par les taxes prélevées sur les bâtiments de mer ou des emprunts réalisés au moyen de l'affectation de ces taxes, pour couvrir les frais de travaux ou des dépenses administratives se rapportant à une section fluviale située en amont d'Isakteha, est restreinte à la partie du fleuve située en amont de Galatz.

Art. 5. La Commission Européenne est chargée de l'entretien de l'Administration de tous les phares composant le système d'éclairage des embouchures du Danube; par suite, la quote-part représentant les droits de phare dans le montant des taxes perçues à Soulina restera intégralement acquise à la Caisse de Navigation.

Art. 6. Le Service Sanitaire du port de Soulina est placé sous l'autorité directe de la Commission Européenne.

Les agents préposés à ce service sont nommés par la Commission Européenne à la majorité des voix, sans distinction de nationalité; ils peuvent également être révoqués par elle.

Le produit des taxes sanitaires formera un fonds spécial et sera affecté, tant à la rémunération du personnel de la Santé, qu'aux dépenses du Service Sanitaire et aux frais d'établissement et d'entretien d'un lazaret, à Soulina.

Art. 7. En cas d'épidémie, la Commission Européenne s'entend avec les autorités sanitaires des Etats riverains de la partie du fleuve comprise dans son ressort, afin d'assurer l'application uniforme des principes établis par les Articles 18, 19, et 20 de l'Acte du 2 Novembre, 1865.

Dans le but de déterminer plus exactement la portée des stipulations du dit Article 20, relatives aux mesures de quarantaine proprement dites, mises en vigueur en temps d'épidémie, il est expressément entendu et convenu que ces mesures sont exclusivement applicables aux navires et aux voyageurs de provenance brute et dans les ports non contaminés, et que toute mesure exceptionnelle et restrictive doit être supprimée, pour l'intercourse entre les ports du fleuve, dès que l'épidémie est devenue générale sur ses rives.

Et afin de faciliter, en temps d'épidémie, le maintien de la police fluviale, il est convenu, de plus, que l'Inspecteur de la Navigation, le Chancelier de l'Inspection, et les Surveillants des Sections continueront, comme par le passé, à circuler librement sur le fleuve, sous la seule condition de se soumettre, en cas de compromission, aux mesures réglementaires auxquelles sont soumis les agents de la Santé. Les mêmes immunités seraient, en cas de besoin, accordées aux Ingénieurs, employés, et ouvriers de la Commission Européenne.

Art. 8. Pour assurer, en tout temps, au personnel ainsi qu'aux propriétés et ouvrages de la Commission Européenne, le bénéfice de la neutralité qui leur est garantie par les Articles 21 de l'Acte Public, du 2 Novembre, 1865, et Article VII du Traité de Londres, du 13 Mars, 1871, les Ingénieurs, employés et ouvriers de la Commission Européenne pourront être munis d'un brassard portant, sur fond bleu, les lettres blanches "C E D." De plus, elle ne sera pas tenue d'arborer sur ses établissements de toute nature ou sur ses embarcations d'autre pavillon que le sien, lequel est composé de cinq bandes parallèles, perpendiculaires à la hampe, disposées dans l'ordre suivant de leurs couleurs: rouge, blanc, bleu, blanc et rouge, la bande bleue ayant une hauteur double de celle de chacune des autres bandes, et portant en blanc les lettres "C E D."

Art. 9. Toutes les dispositions de l'Acte Public du 2 Novembre, 1865, auxquelles il n'est pas expressément dérogé par le présent Acte additionnel, conservent tout leur force et valeur.

Le Règlement de Navigation et de Police et le Tarif des Droits de Navigation seront révisés ultérieurement par la Commission Européenne, pour être mis d'accord avec l'état de choses créé par le Traité de Berlin.

Art. 10. Le présent Acte sera ratifié.

Chacune des Hautes Parties Contractantes ratifiera en un seul exemplaire. Les instruments de ratification seront déposés, dans le délai de trois mois, ou plus tôt si faire se peut, dans les archives de la Commission Européenne du Danube.

En foi de quoi, les Délégués Plénipotentiaires respectifs ont signé le présent Acte additionnel, et y ont apposé leur sceau.

Fait à Galatz, le

Inclosure 2 in No. 45.

COMMISSION EUROPÉENNE DU DANUBE.

Protocole No. 330.—1e *Séance du* 26 *Mai*, 1879.

(Extrait.)

Présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Dr. Arendt.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Baron de Haan.

Pour la France—
M. Herbette.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. Siborne.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Chevalier Simondetti.

Pour la Roumanie—
M. G. Rescan.

Pour la Russie—
M. A. Romanenko.

Pour la Turquie—
Constantin Effendi Et. Carathéodory.

§ 2. AVANT de reprendre la délibération sur les différentes questions qui étaient portées au programme de la présente Session, et en considération de la proposition d'ajournement présentée par le Délégué d'Autriche-Hongrie, dans la séance du 17 Mai courant (Protocole No. 327, § 2), la Commission juge nécessaire d'éliminer de son ordre du jour celles des dites questions sur lesquelles porte, soit directement, soit par voie de conséquence, la susdite proposition.

On constate que les questions dont l'ajournement est proposé sont les suivantes :—

1. Révision de l'Acte Public du 2 Novembre, 1865, et de ses deux annexes, le Règlement de Navigation et de Police et le dispositif du Tarif des Droits de Navigation (le taux des droits n'ayant pas été touché par le projet de révision).

2. Révision des Instructions Générales au Capitaine du port de Sulina et à l'Inspecteur de la navigation. La révision de cette dernière Instruction comprenant les questions : (*a*) de l'organisation de l'inspection ; (*b*) de l'extension jusqu'à Galatz de la surveillance de police ; (*c*) de la réforme service du chef des pilotes du fleuve.

Cette dernière question est réservée, toutefois, à une discussion immédiate, en tant qu'elle touche le remplacement du chef pilote en fonctions.

3. Dispositions relatives au Service Sanitaire du port de Soulina.

4. Projet de règlement pour l'institution d'un Bureau de Vérification Indépendant, auprès de la Caisse de Navigation de Soulina.

Ce projet est ajourné, comme étant corrélatif à la révision de l'Acte Public, par le motif qu'il impliquerait une modification préalable de l'Article 16 de cet Acte.

5. Révision des Instructions de Service à l'Ingénieur de la Commission, au Directeur de l'Hôpital de la Marine et au Directeur de la Caisse de Navigation, ces Instructions touchant, soit à la question de l'extension du ressort fluvial de la Commission, soit à celle du Service Sanitaire de Soulina.

6. Préparation du projet de règlement pour la navigation, la police fluviale, et la surveillance, entre Galatz et les Portes de Fer.

(Signé) ARENDT.
E. DE HAAN.
JULES HERBETTE.
H. T. SIBORNE.
M. SIMONDETTI.
G. RESCAN.
A. ROMANENKO.
CONST. ET. CARATHÉODORY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 45.

COMMISSION EUROPÉENNE DU DANUBE.

Protocole No. 332.—*Séance du* 29 *Mai*, 1879.

(Extrait.)

Présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Dr. Arendt.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Baron de Haan.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Siborne.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Chevalier Simondetti.

Pour la Roumanie—
M. G. Rescan.

Pour la Russie—
M. A. Romanenko.

Pour la Turquie—
Constantin Effendi Et. Carathéodory.

Le Délégué Ottoman déclare qu'il est autorisé à adhérer à la proposition du Délégué d'Autriche-Hongrie pour l'ajournement de la discussion relative à la révision de l'Acte Public et de ses annexes. (Protocole No. 327, § 2). Il dit que son Gouvernement est persuadé que cette révision se fera dans la limite stricte des changements imposés par le Traité de Berlin, et sans porter aucune atteinte ou préjudice aux garanties acquises déjà à la Sublime Porte, quant aux engagements financiers de la Commission Européenne, qui sont antérieurs à cette révision. Sous le bénéfice de ces observations, Constantin Effendi se rallie au vote de ses collègues.

Le Délégué de Russie, au moment où l'ajournement proposé par M. le Baron de Haan devient l'objet d'un vote unanime, juge nécessaire de préciser la portée de sa propre adhésion, et dit qu'elle n'implique pas, de sa part, reconnaissance, pour l'avenir, de la nécessité d'une révision de l'Acte Public. M. Romanenko rappelle que l'Acte Public ne doit subir aucune atteinte dans son essence, qu'il doit rester intact, sauf les changements absolument indispensables exigés par la nouvelle situation créée à la Commission par le Traité de Berlin. Ces changements, suivant l'opinion du Délégué de Russie, doivent porter uniquement sur la forme et ne pas toucher le fond ; c'est ainsi seulement qu'il peut comprendre le mot de révision, appliqué à l'Acte Public, lequel, comme le dit très-bien le Délégué de France, doit simplement être mis en harmonie avec le susdit Traité.

Le Délégué d'Autriche-Hongrie dit qu'il fait toute réserve sur les appréciations produites par le Délégué de Russie.

(Signé) ARENDT.
E. DE HAAN.
H. T. SIBORNE.
M. SIMONDETTI.
G. RESCAN.
A. ROMANENKO.
CONST. ET. CARATHÉODORY.

No. 46.

Colonel Siborne to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July 5.*)

(No. 39.)

My Lord, *Galatz, July* 1, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith Protocols 334 and 335 of the Danube Commission, together with observations on those portions of them relating to the repayment of the debt owing by the Commission to the Sublime Porte.

In my letter to your Lordship, No. 25 of the 30th May, I reported on Protocol 329, showing the proceedings relating to this subject in the earlier part of the Session.

On the 20th ultimo I telegraphed in cypher to the effect that the Commission had made an advance to the Porte of 1,027,000 fr.

The situation may be described as follows:—

The requisite unanimity could not be obtained for the adoption of M. Herbette's project for total liquidation, for although it was understood that Baron de Haan had discretionary powers, and that the Italian and Roumanian Delegates would vote with him, the German and Russian Commissioners were instructed only to accept partial payments.

On the other hand, the Ottoman Delegate and I, M. Herbette having left Galatz, were under the necessity of agreeing to almost any terms which might be imposed, in order to avoid the prejudicial alternative of depriving the Porte, by our refusal, and the consequent want of unanimity, of any immediate reimbursement.

Baron de Haan thus acquired the power of arranging the details of a partial repayment according to his own views, and, before bringing it forward in the meeting, he made the following proposal to Constantin Effendi.

He calculated (erroneously) the debt with interest up to the 1st June, 1879, less a discount of 7 per cent., at 4,171,373 fr., and proposed that "the Commission should pay a quarter of this amount, or 1,042,843 fr., on condition that this sum should be accepted by the Sublime Porte in amortization of the whole debt, with the interests agreed to in the Arrangement of 1869, and that the Sublime Porte should make a declaration that its Delegate should abstain from voting on financial questions where unanimity is required if his opinion differs from that of all his other colleagues."

In other words, in return for a partial repayment of advances made by the Porte at a time of the greatest financial need of the Commission, the latter should insist on benefiting by a discount of 7 per cent., and the Ottoman Government should agree to the renunciation, on the part of its Delegate, of the valuable privilege of entire freedom of voting, and thus consent to place him in an inferior position to that of the rest of his colleagues.

This last condition was doubtless owing to Constantin Effendi having on one or two occasions during the Session, on account of the opposition at first manifested to a prepayment of the debt, very naturally made objections to new proposals of expenditure under other heads.

The Ottoman Delegate having remonstrated with Baron de Haan on the indignity of the above-mentioned condition, the Austrian Commissioner then proposed in the *plenum* the following solution:—

Protocol 334, § 7.—Baron de Haan showed that after covering the unpaid balance of the London Loan, and keeping in reserve about 1,000,000 fr., the Commission had at its disposal the sum of 1,027,416 fr., and he "proposed to hand over this amount to the Ottoman Government in return for a declaration to be made by the Sublime Porte, that it is accepted in liquidation of a quarter of the whole debt owing on the 1st June, 1879, and that, in conformity with the last paragraph of Article 10 of the Arrangement of 1869, this quarter is to be chargeable, in its totality, upon the principal capital," that is the original capital on which alone interest is paid.

I observed as follows:—

The proposal was that the Porte should accept 1,027,416 fr. in acquittance of the fourth part of 4,467,023 fr., the amount of the debt on the 1st June, 1879, or 1,116,757 fr., which latter sum nearly equals one-third of the original capital bearing interest to Turkey.

It resulted that Turkey must submit to a loss of 89,341 fr. or in other words, to a discount of 8 per cent. on the amount paid, *plus* the interest at 4 per cent. on this latter sum.

I then recapitulated the last paragraph of Article 10 of the Convention of 1869, cited by Baron de Haan, in order to show that, in my opinion, it was impossible to maintain that the proposal was in conformity with it.

It was to be observed that neither in this paragraph, nor in any other clause of the Convention of 1860, was any species of discount allowed other than the cessation of interest on sums repaid.

Nevertheless, in its Circular to the Powers (Annex to Protocol 329), the Porte declared itself ready to accept one of the two following solutions:—

1. To fix the Reserve Fund at a maximum amount, and to hand over the surplus as a partial payment of the debt to the Ottoman Government.

2. To discharge at once the balance due to the Porte, on condition of a discount, in conformity with M. Herbette's project.

As to the immediate liquidation of the unpaid balance, as the Commission was not in a position to effect it without having recourse to a new loan, M. Herbette was justified in proposing to Turkey the sacrifice of a discount sufficient to compensate the new charges to be met by the Commission, and the Porte accepted this arrangement.

The present proposition, however, although merely amounting to a payment on account, imposed on the Porte, over and above the cessation of interest provided for in Article 10 of the Convention, an effective discount of 8 per cent.

The Commission declared itself in a position to pay over 1,027,416 fr., and Turkey, in order to obtain this sum, must submit to a sacrifice of 89,341 fr., plus the interest of this latter amount.

Such was the price which Turkey must pay for this partial reimbursement.

In answer to the remark that the Commission could obtain more than 4 per cent. interest on the money to be paid over to Turkey, I observed that the Commission was not a banking-house, and that having admitted itself to be in a position to make a repayment on account of the debt, it was bound to hand over the amount without seeking to obtain advantages which did not derive legitimately from the Contract of 1869. That it would be more creditable for the Commission to emulate the disinterestedness shown by Turkey at a time when the respective financial situations were the reverse of their present condition.

I therefore made every reservation as to the discount imposed on the Porte by the proposal, the legality of such discount appearing to me very doubtful.

Nevertheless, I recognized the necessity of voting for the proposition, under penalty of obtaining no immediate payment for the Porte.

At the same time I reserved for Her Majesty's Government entire liberty of action as regards the mode of liquidating the remaining balance of the debt in a manner to compensate, if practicable, the disadvantages to the Porte resulting from the present arrangement.

Baron de Haan endeavoured to prove that his proposal was more favourable to the Porte than that of M. Herbette.

M. Arendt also justified the discount of 8 per cent.

The Russian Delegate adhered to the system of partial repayment, and the Italian and Roumanian Delegates also voted for the proposal.

A telegram was sent to M. Herbette informing him that his colleagues were unanimous in adopting the measure, that reservation had been made as to all future arrangements, and asking for his opinion.

Protocol 335, § 1.—M. Herbette replied by telegraph that "he accepted the immediate payment of 1,027,000 fr. to the Ottoman Empire, to be charged against the total of the debt in such a manner as shall be determined by a definite agreement."

On the part of my French colleague I interpreted M. Herbette's intention to be that he reserved to his Government all liberty of action regarding the future definite liquidation of the balance of the debt.

The proposal was thus adopted unanimously, and the Executive Committee was authorized to carry it into effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. T. SIBORNE, *Colonel, R.E.,*
British Commissioner on Danube.

Inclosure 3 in No. 46.

COMMISSION EUROPÉENNE DU DANUBE.

Protocole No. 334.—Séance du 14 Juin, 1879.

(Extrait.)

Présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Dr. Arendt.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Baron de Haan.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. Siborne.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Chevalier Simondetti.

Pour la Roumanie—
M. G. Roscan.

Pour la Russie—
M. A. Romanenko.

Pour la Turquie—
Constantin Effendi Et. Carathéodory.

§ 7. *Le Délégué d'Autriche-Hongrie* rappelle, que dans la séance du 29 Mai (Protocole No. 332, § 4), la Commission a pris des dispositions provisoires, pour l'emploi de l'excédant de recettes disponibles de l'Exercice 1878, et que la question de savoir quelle partie de cet excédant serait portée au fonds de réserve, et sur quelles valeurs le montant en serait placé, a été réservée pour une décision ultérieure, à prendre avant la clôture de la Session. Il croit que le moment est venu de remettre cette question en délibération et d'examiner, en même temps, sur quelle base un accord unanime pourrait être obtenu, pour la somme à rembourser au Gouvernement Ottoman, à valoir sur sa créance.

Le Délégué d'Autriche-Hongrie dit qu'il a été autorisé par son Gouvernement à donner son adhésion à un arrangement à conclure avec la Sublime Porte, qui sans imposer de nouvelles charges aux Gouvernements et sans priver la Commission des ressources nécessaires pour la sauvegarder contre toute éventualité, permettrait de faire rentrer immédiatement le Gouvernement Ottoman dans une partie de ses avances.

M. le Baron de Haan expose, ainsi qu'il suit, les bases de l'arrangement qu'il a l'honneur de proposer à cet effet :

Au 31 Décembre, 1878, le fonds de réserve constitué de la Commission s'élevait à la somme de 1,838,715 fr., et il s'est accru, depuis cette époque, en intérêts touchés sur les valeurs qui le composent, d'une somme de 41,000 fr., d'où il résulte que ce fonds est actuellement de 1,879,715 fr.

	Fr.
Cette somme couvre le solde de l'Emprunt Bischoffsheim et Goldschmidt s'élevant à 1,212,540 fr. et comprend encore une somme libre de	667,175
En ajoutant à cette dernière somme une somme de 223,729 fr., à prendre sur l'encaisse actuel	223,729
On arrive à la somme de	890,904

somme qui serait destinée à faire face aux besoins imprévus, et qui remonterait, d'ailleurs, dans un très-court espace de temps, à 1,000,000 fr., par suite de l'excédant des recettes de l'année courante sur les dépenses : les derniers comptes-rendus de la Caisse de Navigation et les prévisions exprimées par le Directeur de cette Caisse ne laissent à cet égard aucun doute.

La Commission, dont l'encaisse actuel est de 1,251,145 fr., disposerait donc, après avoir en défalqué la dite somme de 223,729 fr., d'une somme de 1,027,416 fr.

Le Délégué d'Autriche-Hongrie propose de verser cette dernière somme au Gouvernement Ottoman, contre une déclaration qui serait faite par la Sublime Porte que la dite somme est acceptée en amortissement du quart de toute la créance, arrêtée au premier Juin courant, et que conformément au dernier alinéa de l'Article 10 de l'Arrangement du 2 Novembre, 1869, ce quart amorti est imputable, en totalité, sur le capital principal.

Après avoir demandé quelques éclaircissements au Directeur de la Comptabilité sur l'état actuel de l'encaisse, la Commission passe au vote sur la proposition de M. le Baron de Haan.

Le Délégué de la Grande Bretagne donne lecture des observations suivantes :—

"La proposition du Délégué d'Autriche-Hongrie est de 'verser à la Sublime Porte la somme de 1,027,416 fr. contre une déclaration qu'elle accepte cette somme en amortissement d'un quart de toute sa créance arrêté au 1er Juin, 1879.'

"Cette créance s'élevait, à cette date, à la somme de 4,467,028 fr., dont le quart est de 1,116,757 fr., ou a peu près le tiers de la partie de la créance qui porte intérêt à la Turquie.

"Il en résulte que la Turquie doit subir une perte de 89,341 fr., ou en d'autres termes, un escompte de 8 pour cent, plus intérêt à 4 pour cent de cette somme.

"Selon mon avis, il est impossible de prétendre qu'un tel arrangement soit conforme au dernier alinéa de l'Article 10 de l'Acte du 2 Novembre, 1869, qui est ainsi conçu :—

"'Il est entendu que dans tous les cas où des remboursements partiels anticipés auront été effectués sur le capital dû à la Sublime Porte les intérêts dont ce capital est productif, à partir du 1er Janvier, 1871, diminueront en proportion des sommes remboursées.'

"Il est à observer que ni dans cet alinéa ni dans aucune autre clause de la Convention de 1869 il n'est admis aucune autre espèce d'escompte que la cessation de l'intérêt de 4 pour cent sur les remboursements effectifs opérés à compte du capital original.

"Toutefois, dans sa Circulaire aux Puissances, (annexée au Protocole No. 329) la Sublime Porte s'est déclarée prête à accepter une des deux solutions suivantes, à savoir :—

"'1. Ramener le fonds de réserve à un chiffre maximum, qui serait fixé par la Commission, et consacrer l'excédant actuel au paiement d'une partie de la créance du Gouvernement Impérial.

"'2. Eteindre immédiatement le solde qui resterait dû à la Sublime Porte, moyennant escompte, conformément à l'idée émise par l'un des membres de la Commission.'

"Quant à l'extinction immédiate du solde de la dette, comme la Commission n'est pas en mesure de l'effectuer sans avoir recours à un nouvel emprunt, M. Herbette était justifié, en proposant à la Turquie le sacrifice d'un escompte suffisant pour compenser les nouvelles charges que la Commission s'imposerait, et le Gouvernement Ottoman acceptait cette dérogation aux conditions premières.

"Aujourd'hui, bien que la proposition de M. le Baron de Haan ne comporte qu'un simple remboursement partiel, elle n'en impose pas moins à la Sublime Porte, outre la cessation d'intérêt prévue par l'Article 10 de la Convention, un escompte effectif de 8 pour cent.

"Il a été dit que ces 8 pour cent n'étant payés qu'une fois pour toutes, et se répartissant sur les quatre ans à courir jusqu'à 1883, ils ne s'élèvent réellement qu'à 2 pour cent par an. Mais il n'est pas moins certain que la Turquie, pour obtenir la somme de 1,027,416 fr. que la Commission se déclare en état de lui rembourser, doit subir un sacrifice de 89,341 fr., plus intérêt de cette somme, le montant des deux sommes, soit 1,116,757 fr., étant déduit uniquement de la partie de sa créance qui porte intérêt. Tel est le prix auquel la Sublime Porte doit payer ce remboursement partiel.

"Il a été également dit que la Commission pourrait retirer, pendant ce même temps, plus de 4 pour cent d'intérêts de la somme qu'on propose de payer à la Turquie. En réponse à cette observation il faut remarquer que la Commission n'est pas une maison de banque, et que le fait étant acquis, qu'elle possède une somme disponible pour effectuer un remboursement à compte de sa dette envers la Sublime Porte, elle est tenue de payer cette somme sans chercher à obtenir des avantages qui ne découlent

pas légitimement des conditions du Contrat de 1869. Je suis de l'avis qu'il serait plus honorable pour la Commission de reconnaître aujourd'hui, par un retour de bon procédé, le désintéressement dont la Turquie a fait preuve au moment où les conditions réciproques de la Commission et du Gouvernement Ottoman étaient l'inverse de la situation actuelle.

"Je crois, par conséquent, devoir faire toutes mes réserves quant à l'escompte imposé à la Sublime Porte par la proposition du Délégué d'Autriche-Hongrie, escompte dont la légitimité est très-douteuse à mes yeux.

"Toutefois, je reconnais la nécessité de voter pour la dite proposition, sous peine de n'obtenir pour la Sublime Porte aucun remboursement immédiat.

"En même temps, je réserve pour mon Gouvernement toute liberté d'appréciation, pour régler le mode de paiement du solde de la créance Ottomane, de façon à compenser, si faire se peut, les inconvénients que j'ai signalés plus haut."

Le Délégué d'Autriche-Hongrie ne croit pas devoir entrer dans la discussion détaillée des objections élevées par le Délégué de la Grande Bretagne contre le principe de sa proposition; il se borne à faire ressortir, que suivant l'arrangement proposé par le Délégué de France, pris pour terme de comparaison par M. le Colonel Siborne, le Gouvernement Ottoman recevrait effectivement, pour donner quittance d'un million, une somme de 789,109 fr., tandis que d'après la proposition actuellement en discussion, il toucherait 920,000 fr., c'est-à-dire, 130,891 fr. de plus. M. le Baron de Haan fait observer, en outre, que le remboursement d'une dette fait cesser le paiement de ses intérêts, et que la perte de ces intérêts ne saurait être prise en considération, dans l'évaluation du sacrifice que l'arrangement proposé imposerait à la Sublime Porte.

Le Délégué d'Allemagne vote pour la proposition du Délégué d'Autriche-Hongrie; il fait remarquer que l'escompte de 8 pour cent demandé à la Sublime Porte, se répartissant sur quatre années, et ressortant ainsi, en réalité, à 2 pour cent par an, il représente, à peu de chose près, l'avantage que la Commission trouverait à garder les fonds jusqu'à leur échéance normale, en 1883, vu la différence entre le taux de l'intérêt qu'elle doit à la Turquie et celui qu'elle touche elle-même, sur ses fonds placés. M. le Dr. Arendt estime que pour ce motif la déduction d'un escompte de 8 pour cent est pleinement justifiée.

Le Délégué de Russie dit qu'il est autorisé par son Gouvernement à adhérer à la demande faite par le Délégué Ottoman, relativement au paiement de la créance de la Sublime Porte, sous la condition que cette créance soit éteinte au moyen de remboursements partiels. En ce qui touche le montant de la somme à verser, quant à présent, sur la dite créance, M. Romanenko, prenant en considération la situation actuelle du fonds de réserve, et se référant à l'appréciation faite par lui, dans la séance du 24 Mai (Protocole No. 329), de l'importance réelle de ce fonds, exprime l'avis que ce premier versement devrait être fixé, non à 1,027,000 fr., mais à 800,000 fr. seulement, somme réellement disponible aujourd'hui, ainsi qu'il résulte de toutes les données mises sous les yeux de la Commission.

Quant aux versements à faire ultérieurement pour continuer l'amortissement de la créance de la Sublime Porte, au cas où la situation financière de la Commission comporterait un pareil arrangement, le Délégué de Russie, se référant à ce qui a été dit dans la séance du 24 Mai (Protocole, No. 329), touchant un remboursement à faire par versements partiels, dans un délai de quatre ans, croit que la Commission pourrait adopter, mais toujours sans engagement formel de sa part, le mode de libération suivant: elle paierait chaque année, pour l'avenir, la somme prévue par l'arrangement conclu en 1868.

Les Délégués d'Italie et de Roumanie votent pour la proposition du Délégué d'Autriche-Hongrie.

Le Délégué Ottoman accepte cette proposition; il exprime ses remercîments à ceux de ses honorables collègues qui l'ont adoptée, et il remercie également le Délégué de Russie de l'adhésion qu'il a donnée au principe du remboursement anticipé; il exprime l'espoir, que pour arriver à un accord unanime et en considération des prévisions particulièrement favorables qu'il est permis de faire quant au résultat financier de l'année courante, M. Romanenko voudra bien se rallier à l'arrangement proposé par M. le Baron de Haan, arrangement qui aurait pour effet immédiat de réduire d'un quart la dette de la Commission envers la Sublime Porte.

M. Romanenko dit qu'en présence du vote exprimé par tous les Délégués présents, en faveur de la dite proposition, il ne croit pas devoir s'opposer à ce qu'il y soit donné suite, et qu'il accepte la décision qui serait prise par tous ses collègues.

Le Délégué de la Grande Bretagne donne lecture de la communication suivante qu'il a été chargé de faire au nom du Délégué de France:

"Je prie le Président de la Commission de vouloir bien me communiquer, par voie télégraphique, toute proposition relative au remboursement de la créance Ottomane, partiel ou total, qui réunirait le vote unanime de mes collègues, afin que je sois en mesure de faire connaître d'urgence les vues de mon Gouvernement.

"Fait à Galatz, le 26 Mai, 1879.

(Signé) "JULES HERBETTE."

Sur cette communication, la Commission décide d'adresser au Délégué de France le télégramme ci-après transcrit:

"Les Délégués présents sont unanimes pour offrir à la Sublime Porte le paiement immédiat de 1,027,000 fr., et le Délégué Ottoman accepte ce paiement, en amortissement du quart de toute la créance, arrêtée au 1er Juin, 1879; toute disposition pour l'avenir est réservée; on attend votre réponse par télégraphe pour clore la session,"

Fait à Galatz, le 14 Juin, 1879.

(Signé) ARENDT.
E. DE HAAN.
H. T. SIBORNE.
M. SIMONDETTI.
G. RESCAN.
A. ROMANENKO.
CONST. ET. CARATHÉODORY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 46.

COMMISSION EUROPÉENNE DU DANUBE.

Protocole No. 335.—Séance du 19 Juin, 1879.

(Extrait.)

Présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Dr. Arendt.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Baron de Haan.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. Siborne.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Chevalier Simondetti.

Pour la Roumanie—
M. G. Rescan.

Pour la Russie—
M. A. Romanenko.

Pour la Turquie—
Constantin Effendi Et. Carathéodory.

§ 1er. *Le Président* informe ses collègues que le Délégué de France a répondu à la dépêche télégraphique qui lui a été adressée le 14 Juin, dépêche dont la teneur est insérée au Protocole de la séance du dit jour (No. 334, § 7), et par laquelle M. Herbette avait été prié de vouloir bien se prononcer sur les dispositions adoptées par les Délégués présents, touchant le remboursement d'une partie de la créance Ottomane. Il est donné lecture de la dépêche du Délégué de France, ainsi conçue:—

"Je suis en mesure d'accepter le remboursement immédiat à l'Empire Ottoman de 1,027,000 fr., à imputer sur le total de sa créance, ainsi qu'il sera fixé par un accord définitif."

Le Président exprime l'opinion, que par cette dépêche, laquelle doit être considérée comme un vote écrit, le Délégué de France adhère à la proposition qui a été formulée dans la séance du 14 Juin, mais qu'il réserve à son Gouvernement la faculté de revenir, lorsqu'il s'agira de régler le solde de la créance Ottomane, sur la question de l'escompte à déduire du total de cette créance.

Le Délégué de la Grande Bretagne croit être en mesure d'apprécier les intentions de son collègue de France, en prenant pour base les communications qu'il a lui-même adressées à ce dernier, touchant la résolution adoptée à l'unanimité par les autres Délégués, et ses propres réserves, telles qu'elles sont formulées au Protocole No. 334. M. le Colonel Siborne pense que M. Herbette entend, en effet, réserver à son Gouvernement toute liberté pour la liquidation définitive future du solde de la créance Ottomane.

Le Président constate que la susdite résolution est devenue, par l'adhésion du Délégué de France, l'objet d'un accord unanime.

Le Délégué Ottoman exprime sa vive satisfaction du résultat qui a été obtenu; il attache à cette unanimité d'autant plus de prix qu'il reconnaît toutes les difficultés que ses collègues ont rencontrées, malgré les bonnes dispositions dont ils se sont tous montrés animés à l'égard de la Sublime Porte, pour concilier les points de vue différents auxquels ils étaient tenus de se placer.

Le Délégué d'Autriche-Hongrie propose de formuler, ainsi qu'il suit, les dispositions à prendre, pour donner suite à la résolution adoptée:—

La Commission décide:

"1. Que sur l'excédant de recettes de 1878, s'élevant à 1,132,943 fr. 43 c., il sera prélevé, pour être versé à la Sublime Porte, une somme de 1,027,416 fr. 43 c., et que le surplus du dit excédant, soit 105,528 fr., sera versé au fonds de réserve;

"2. Que le paiement de la dite somme de 1,027,416 fr. 43 c. (à savoir, 1,116,757 fr. diminués d'un escompte de 8 pour cent) sera effectué contre une déclaration de la Sublime Porte, reconnaissant, qu'au moyen de ce versement un quart de sa créance, arrêtée au 1er Juin, 1879, se trouve amorti, et que conformément à l'Article 10 de l'arrangement de 1869, la dite somme de 1,116,757 fr. est déduquée du capital principal;

"3. Et que le Comité Exécutif est autorisé à prendre les dispositions nécessaires pour exécuter cette décision."

La proposition du Délégué d'Autriche-Hongrie est adoptée et *le Délégué Ottoman* prie la Commission de lui faire connaître dans quelle forme elle désire que la déclaration à faire par son Gouvernement soit donnée.

M. le Baron de Haan exprime l'opinion que les pleins-pouvoirs généraux dont tous les Délégués sont munis ne seraient pas suffisants pour le cas dont il s'agit, et qu'il y a lieu de prier le Délégué de la Sublime Porte de demander un mandat spécial, pour toucher la somme qui va lui être versée et pour en donner quittance, dans les termes arrêtés d'un commun accord.

Cette opinion étant admise par tous les Délégués, Constantin Effendi dit qu'il se conformera au désir de la Commission, et il est entendu que le Comité Exécutif effectuera la remise des fonds, soit en espèces, soit en lettres de change, aussitôt que le pouvoir spécial aura été produit par le Délégué de la Sublime Porte, et en tenant compte, autant que possible, dans le mode de paiement, des convenances du Gouvernement Ottoman.

(Signé) ARENDT.
E. DE HAAN.
H. T. SIBORNE.
M. SIMONDETTI.
G. BESCAN.
A. ROMANENKO.
CONST. ET. CARATHÉODORY.

No. 47.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July 5.*)

(No. 292. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Rome, June 27, 1879.*

IN the conversation which I had the honour to have with the Prince of Bulgaria last night, His Highness expressed the deepest concern at the Sultan not wishing him to

come to Constantinople, a communication to which effect had reached him at Munich through Prince Labanoff, the Russian Ambassador to the Porte.

His Highness told me that he had immediately telegraphed to the Queen informing Her Majesty of this circumstance, and asking Her Majesty to use her influence with the Sultan in order to induce His Imperial Majesty to alter his decision. His Highness was anxiously awaiting Her Majesty's reply.

The Prince, in continuing to speak on this subject, said that it appeared to him that his not going to Constantinople to receive the Firman of Investiture from his Suzerain, after having visited the Courts of all the Great Powers, would be construed into an intentional slight on his part, instigated, perhaps, by Russia, towards the Sultan, and might thus produce a bad effect in Bulgaria as well as in Turkey. It was, His Highness said, his anxious desire to be on the most friendly terms with the Sultan and the Turks, and he should much regret any circumstance which should render this desire of his more difficult of execution.

He could not help thinking that the Sultan had perhaps exaggerated the dangers which were to be apprehended from any movement of the Mussulman emigrants from Bulgaria now in Constantinople; at all events, there could be no risk if the Sultan would just receive him for a few minutes, *en passant*, at his Palace on the Bosphorus. As soon as he had paid his respects to His Majesty and received the Firman he would proceed without further delay, or landing anywhere else, towards his destination.

His Highness informed me that he had made an appeal in this sense to the Sultan through the Turkish Minister here, and also through Prince Labanoff.

Sir A. H. Layard having requested me by telegraph to inform the Prince that it would give him great pleasure to be of any use to His Highness at Constantinople, and that if he would let him know his wishes through me they would receive every attention, I duly delivered this message, and was requested by His Highness to convey his best thanks to Her Majesty's Ambassador, which I have accordingly done, adding at the same time the substance of what is stated above.

This morning His Highness was good enough to send Dr. Constantine Stoiloff, one of his suite, to show me a telegram he had received from Her Majesty the Queen, and to inform me that if the application the Prince had made to the Sultan did not change His Imperial Majesty's decision he should then take the overland route to his Principality; that he should, moreover, make a communication to the several Great Powers, stating the circumstances under which he had been compelled to give up his visit to Constantinople, so that it might clearly be established that it was no wish of his own to do so, and that he should appeal to the Sultan to cause a communication to be addressed by his Government to the same Governments in the same sense.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 48.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July 5.*)

(No. 298. Most Confidential.)

My Lord, *Rome, June 30, 1879.*

ALTHOUGH your Lordship will have acquired, in your conversations with Prince Alexander, a perfect knowledge of the views and feelings of His Highness with regard to his future prospects and position, I nevertheless think it right to mention what I hear on this subject from my German colleague, who has, of course, had many opportunities for intimate conversation with the Prince during his stay at the German Embassy.

The general impression left on M. de Keudell's mind from these conversations is, that the Prince, in the first place, is imbued with the strongest determination to do his duty towards all his subjects, of whatever creed, in the most impartial manner; to keep the interests of the Principality exclusively in view, and to be independent of any foreign Power; to contribute as far as in him lies towards its proper administrative organization and the development of its resources, and to maintain the most friendly relations with the Suzerain Power; but at the same time His Highness takes a very desponding view as to the chance of succeeding in the task which is before him: he believes there are some parts of the Constitution which are incapable of practical application; that the Russians have purposely drawn it up with this view, and for the

furtherance of their own interests. In short, to use the words repeated to me by M. de Keudell, "Ils lui ont fait un lit dans lequel il lui sera impossible de coucher."

I may add that the manner in which His Highness expressed himself to me as to the difficulties before him was entirely in accordance with what is stated above; "I have up to this time," said His Highness, "had a very pleasant position, and I am now going to occupy a very disagreeable one."

He seemed to me, moreover, particularly anxious it should not be thought he was going to be an instrument of Russia, and His Highness repeatedly alluded to the reliance which he placed upon the friendship of Her Majesty the Queen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 49.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 299.)
My Lord, *Rome, June 30, 1879.*

I CALLED at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs the day before yesterday, for the purpose of informing M. Depretis, in compliance with the instructions conveyed in your Lordship's telegram No. 38 of the 27th instant, that Her Majesty's Government have considered the alteration of the Greek frontier suggested by the Italian Government, namely, the drainage area of the Peneus and Aspropotamos; that it seems to them to contain hopeful elements for a settlement of this difficult question; and that Her Majesty's Government hope the Italian Government will not lose sight of it.

M. Depretis, not being at the Ministry, I made the communication to Count Tornielli, who promised to make it known to his Excellency, who, he was sure, would be much gratified at receiving it.

Count Tornielli then informed me of the substance of the communication which Count Menabrea had been directed to make to your Lordship on this question, as contained in the Memorandum of which a copy is inclosed in your Lordship's despatch No. 356 of the 27th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 50.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 301.)
My Lord, *Rome, June 30, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 292, Confidential, of the 27th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Turkish Minister, who called upon me on the afternoon of the 28th instant, was good enough to read to me a telegram which he had received from his Government in reply to the appeal addressed through him by the Prince of Bulgaria to the Sultan to be allowed to visit His Imperial Majesty on his way to the seat of his Government, and which telegram Turkhan Bey had communicated to the Prince the evening before.

The telegram was to the effect that it will give the Sultan much pleasure to receive His Highness in the manner proposed by him, viz., he will stop in front of the Palace on the Bosphorus, pay his visit to the Sultan, receive the Firman of Investiture, re-embark, and then proceed on his voyage to Varna.

Turkhan Bey told me that the Prince was perfectly delighted at receiving this intelligence, and said he had no words to express the pleasure which it gave him, and how much obliged he was to him (Turkhan) for having been the means of effecting this arrangement.

The wording of the telegram showed that the Sultan also was highly gratified with the motives which had induced the Prince to insist so much upon this interview.

Turkhan Bey further informed me that the Prince, who intended to embark to-day at Brindisi, having inquired of him on what day he would thus arrive at Constantinople, and having been informed that he would get there on Friday, had spontaneously

suggested that Friday, being a Turkish fête day, when it might possibly not be convenient to the Sultan to receive him, he would in such case postpone his departure from Italy for another day.

At the request of the Prince, Turkhan Bey telegraphed this to Constantinople, and my German colleague informed me yesterday that the Prince would leave Rome for Naples to-day, and Brindisi the day after to-morrow morning.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 51.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 302.)
My Lord, *Rome, July 1, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's telegram, No. 42, of yesterday's date, relative to the intention of Her Majesty's Government to urge on Roumania to insert in her Constitution the language as to religious liberty of the XLIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, and to inform your Lordship that I have just had an interview with M. Depretis for the purpose of giving effect to your Lordship's instructions in reference to this subject.

I drew up a short Memorandum, copy of which is inclosed, embodying the substance of your Lordship's telegram, and which, after having translated it into French, I left, at his Excellency's request, in his hands.

M. Depretis seemed much pleased at the proposal now submitted to him; said it appeared the most practical and expedient manner of solving the question at issue, and did not doubt that he should be able to accept it on the part of the Italian Government, and to instruct the Italian Ambassador at Vienna accordingly.

But before giving me a positive answer, his Excellency said he was anxious to make inquiries as to the exact position in which the negotiations which the Italian Government had recently opened with the Government of Roumania relative to the recognition question, and with which Her Majesty's Government and the Government of Germany had been made acquainted, actually stood.

His Excellency then explained that deeming it of great importance for the interests of Italy, and also with the view of hastening the solution of the religious question, that the diplomatic relations of Italy with Roumania should be placed on a more formal footing than they are at present, he had entered upon the subject with the Roumanian Government, and it had been proposed that, in the first instance, an Italian Councillor of Legation should be sent to Bucharest to replace Baron Fava, the Consul-General, and that this should be followed by a Roumanian Minister being accredited to Rome.

The German Government, M. Depretis said, seemed rather to resent this independent action on the part of Italy, but he could not help thinking that every Power was entitled to be held the best judge of what its interests required in a case of this description.

M. Depretis added, however, that he considered your Lordship's proposal as well calculated to secure the object which all the Powers had in view without unnecessarily wounding the susceptibilities of Roumania, or having the appearance of undue interference in her internal legislation; that he should much prefer this mode of action with Her Majesty's Government to that to which he had just alluded; and that he hoped in the course of the day to be able to announce to me that the Italian Government was ready to join with Her Majesty's Government in the course proposed, and would send instructions in this sense to the Italian Ambassador at Vienna.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 51.

Memorandum.

(Confidential.)

HER Majesty's Government think of urging on Roumania to insert in her Constitution the language of the XLIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin as to religious liberty, and to recognize her independence as soon as this shall have been done.

In order to prevent any appearance of external coercion, which might offend the Roumanian Assembly, Her Majesty's Government think of asking the Austro-Hungarian Government, which has already established diplomatic relations with Roumania, to convey to the Roumanian Government a message from the Powers which agree that they will be satisfied with this measure.

Her Majesty's Government hope that the Government of His Italian Majesty will be able to act with them, and in this case that they will be good enough to send the necessary instructions to the Italian Ambassador at Vienna.

Her Majesty's Government have ascertained that Prince Bismarck would be satisfied with this solution, and they believe also the French Minister for Foreign Affairs.

British Embassy, Rome, July 1, 1879.

No. 52.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 307.)

My Lord, *Rome, July* 2, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 302 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Count Tornielli called upon me this morning to say that the Italian Government will gladly instruct the Italian Ambassador in Vienna to request the Austro-Hungarian Government to include Italy in the communication, which, on the proposal of Her Majesty's Government, is to be made to the Roumanian Government, with a view to obtaining the insertion in the Roumanian Constitution of the wording of the XLIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin regarding religious liberty; but added that, after the vote of the Roumanian Assembly, if this was not favourable to acceptance of the Constitution thus revised, the Italian Government desired to retain its liberty of action with respect to any ulterior steps for placing its diplomatic relations with Roumania upon a more formal footing.

A despatch to the above effect, Count Tornielli told me, was being sent to Count Menabrea.

The French Ambassador made a communication to Count Tornielli yesterday afternoon, in the same sense as that which I had made upon this subject to M. Depretis in the morning, and was informed that the reply of the Italian Government to the proposal of Her Majesty's Government would probably be in accordance with what is stated above, but that it had not yet been submitted to M. Depretis.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 53.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 715. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Paris, July* 4, 1879.

M. CALLIMAKI CATARGI came to me yesterday, and told me that he had heard with great alarm that, on the proposal of Germany, the Western Powers had it in contemplation to address a collective summons to Roumania to give effect to the XLIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin. He added that his anxiety had not been diminished by hearing that the specific recommendation to the Roumanians would be to insert in their Constitution an Article in the terms of the XLIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin. A suggestion to this effect had, he said, come some time ago from Germany, but he was told that it had now been brought forward by Her Majesty's Government.

M. Callimaki Catargi went on to say that he apprehended very serious consequences from the step contemplated by the Powers. The Roumanians were quite willing to remove from their Constitution the Article imposing civil and political disabilities upon non-Christians. By so doing they would open the way to a gradual extension of citizenship to Israelites, as well as to others not holding the Christian faith. But to admit at once a large number of Israelites to political privileges was simply impossible. He was not prepared to defend all the prejudices which existed

against the Israelites in his country. But the existence of these prejudices was a fact which could not be overlooked. No Legislative Assembly would pass any measure which would effect immediately a wholesale naturalization of Israelites. No Government could obtain this. In fact, the constituencies had insisted upon taking pledges on the subject from the candidates for seats in the present Assembly, and the Members of it would not, and could not, violate those pledges. The Roumanians were ready to record in their Constitution the principle of universal toleration laid down by the Treaty of Berlin. They would, no doubt, by degrees, pass laws for giving full effect to this principle in the case of the Israelites. But the French Government wanted them to go beyond this, and forthwith to alter their naturalization laws, so as at once, *ipso facto*, to convert a large number of Israelites into Roumanian citizens, with political rights. No Roumanian Legislature could be brought to do this. In a Constitutional country the sentiments of the people could not be set at nought. If the Powers pressed such a measure upon Roumania, the present Ministry must retire. It was certain that no Cabinet could take office, on the ground of yielding to pressure on this point. The Prince would be left without Ministers and the country without a Government, and all would be confusion. The Powers who wished well to Roumania should be content with the establishment of the principle, and should leave the Roumanian Government and Legislature to apply it by degrees, and in the measure which the public feeling would, as time went on, render possible.

M. Callimaki Catargi spoke earnestly and at great length in this sense. I answered that I had no desire to combat his arguments in detail, but that I must confess that the impression they made upon me was, that the solution which had been put forward by your Lordship was practically well calculated to relieve the Roumanians from the difficulties which he had stated. Your Lordship had, in fact, reduced the specific demands of the Powers to the requirement that the Roumanians should embody in their Constitution a complete statement of the principles of toleration laid down by the Treaty of Berlin. You had exerted yourself to induce the other Powers to accept this as a satisfaction of the Treaty. You had, moreover, arranged that, in order to show the utmost consideration for the susceptibilities of the Roumanians, the communication on the subject should be sent unostentatiously through the Diplomatic Representative of one of the Powers which had already recognized their independence. I said, in conclusion, that speaking for myself I could not help expressing a very decided opinion, that the Roumanians would act very imprudently, and show a great lack of political sense, if they did not unhesitatingly take advantage of the opening which had been made with so much consideration in order to facilitate the solution of a question of the greatest importance to them, and thus to enable them to obtain the final admission of their country into the European community of civilized and independent States.

M. Catargi replied, that in looking at the matter from the point of view in which I had placed it, he himself felt some relief from his anxieties, and that he trusted that his Government might take the same view of it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 54.

Acting Consul Cocoto to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 5.)

My Lord, *Brindisi, July* 2, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Prince of Battenberg arrived here this morning, and left to-day for Constantinople in the Russian war-vessel "G. D. Constantino."

The Prince was received by the principal officers of the said war-vessel, and the civil and military authorities of this town.

I have, &c.

(Signed) S. G. COCOTO.

No. 55.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 101.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July 4, 1879.*

AUSTRIAN Minister for Foreign Affairs says that he could not undertake to convey to the Roumanian Government the intimation which he understands that he is to be asked to make, until he learns that they decline to act upon his advice voluntarily, to take steps required to carry out the provisions of the Berlin Treaty respecting religious liberty.

I said that all he would be asked to do was to deliver a message to enable the four Powers to avoid the necessity of adopting the more serious step of sending a Collective Note to the Roumanian Government; but he answered that, by agreeing to do so, he should, in fact, associate himself in an act of which he did not approve, and which he regarded as likely to throw Roumania into the hands of Russia.

His Excellency said that he considered, further, that the Roumanian Government could not be properly asked to insert the whole of the XLIVth Article of the Treaty into the Constitution, as it might be taken as giving foreign Jews in Roumania rights beyond what could be reasonably expected.

He appears so resolute on the question that I should have no expectation of his taking the step proposed if now asked to do so.

No. 56.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 6.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, July 4, 1879.*

YESTERDAY Governor-General received a telegram from the Porte refusing to confirm nomination of Prefects on [? account of] their being all Bulgarians, in contravention of the Statute, the necessity of observing which is strongly urged upon the Governor-General, who is reminded that he has not taken into consideration the interests of the absent Mussulmans.

Allusion is also made to his having appointed almost exclusively Bulgarian Baillis.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 57.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 7.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, July 4, 1879.*

M. SCHMIDT has been officially [? informed] that his nomination had not been submitted to the Porte with that of Bulgarian Directors, who alone have been made acquainted with the correspondence on that subject. He asked the Governor-General to-day in Council for an explanation of his non-confirmation.

His Excellency replied that through a telegraphic error his name was omitted from the list of nominations.

The Director intends to state in Council to-morrow that unless his nomination is confirmed by Monday he will resign. I therefore trust the Porte will at once confirm him specially.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 58.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 10.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, July 4, 1879.*

I HAVE represented to Governor-General that M. Schmidt's acts are illegal until his nomination is submitted to the Porte. His Excellency promised to renew his

application for the confirmation of that, and repeated to me the story about the mistake in the telegraph office, for which he repudiates responsibility.

I told him such an explanation would certainly not be accepted unless it could be proved by a formal investigation of the circumstances under which his telegram had been altered. In the course of further conversation he said he had sent the telegram in cypher to the Governor-General at Adrianople to be forwarded, but he had previously told me that the despatch would be sent *en clair*.

The Porte should send copies of all communications from Governor-General to the Turkish Commissioner, in order that we may [word omitted] his Excellency's statements and movements without loss of time.

No. 59.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 524.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 5, 1879, 12·10 P.M.*

FOLLOWING from Mr. Michell, dated 3rd:—

"Governor-General informs me that General Stolipine has [? refus] ed to allow newly-appointed Governor of Kotel or Kasan to assume functions, on ground that the town will belong to Bulgaria, and that General has ordered a contribution of 35,000 fr. to be levied on town."

No. 60.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, July 4, 1879, 11 P.M.*

MONTENEGRIN Government and Hussein Pasha have been exchanging warm telegrams about alleged encroachments of their outposts near Duleigno.

Former has appealed to me to use influence to prevent matter ending in a conflict.

It appears to me that the Turkish Boundary Commissioners ought to be ordered at once to revert to the majority principle accepted by them in the first Protocol, and which does not prevent the reconsideration hereafter of all matters in dispute. Turkish Government is not, perhaps, aware that the Montenegrins are already in possession of most of the territory about which its Commissioners are raising quibbles.

The stoppage of the demarcation is more dangerous for the Turks than for the Montenegrins, and confidence ought to be placed in the justice of a majority of the Commissioners.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 61.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 53.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 4, 1879.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 4, Russian Commissioner at the last interview verbally agreed that the point of departure for our work should be where previous frontier intersects the parallel of Karaourgan. It is with regard to tracing of this previous frontier that there is a difficulty. This tracing varies in signed map respectively held by the Russian and Turk. In the Turkish map tracing follows line of water-parting west of Yenikoi to my point X; but in the map produced by the Russian the frontier, before reaching parallel of Karaourgan, has a westerly bend, which takes the frontier-line off from water-parting to valley below, and how much further I cannot tell, as the Russian declines to show up section of map. Turk denies accuracy of Russian copy in this respect, and says that frontier-line never left crest (Protocol 3), and that the Russian copy has been falsified. Our position is, I think, clear. I asked the Commission in sitting (Protocol 2) to indicate on the map before us the termination of frontier on the parallel of Karaourgan. Turkish Commissioner indicated the point X. Russian Delegate, who was present, took no

exception to that point. It was not until afterwards that the Russian produced, for first time, the map with the twist.

That the frontier never left the crest is borne out by the wording of the last paragraph of Project of Frontier, copy of which was inclosed in my No. 23.

At last interview Russian Commissioner said, before anything could be done, the two conflicting maps must be reconciled, and that his duty is plainly to accept termination of previous frontier as his point of departure.

As the Russian will not show his map I cannot, in the interest of Her Majesty's Government, accept blindly his point of intersection. On the contrary, I must guard myself against possibility of collusion, and must in all cases reserve the right to accept or reject any other than point X on the crest. Question lies in a nutshell. Does the Russian Government accept or not unconditionally as the point of departure the intersection of water-parting with the parallel of Karaourgan, that is to say, the point adduced, which Turkish Commissioner says is the point of intersection of previous frontier with that parallel, and which British Commissioner is prepared to accept?

No. 62.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 5, 5·45 P.M.)

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, July 5, 1879, 2·15 P.M.*

SATISFACTORY arrangements completed on both sides of Servo-Turkish frontier for safety of Boundary Commission, which has reached Khurschumlye.

No. 63.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 6.)

(No. 103.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July 5, 1879.*

ALL my colleagues and myself consider that, after Count Andrassy's declaration to me that he could not convey a message from the four Powers to the Roumanian Government about religious liberty till he knew effect of the communication he had made to them, it would not be advisable to do anything till answer from Bucharest has been received.

[Group wrong, ? French Ambassador], to whom Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs had spoken much as he did to me, had received instructions authorizing him to wait till Roumanian Government has answered Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs' communication.

No. 64.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 6.)

(No. 16.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, July 5, 1879, 3·30 P.M.*

SERVIAN Government prepared to grant exequatur to Ottoman Consul-General at Nisch the moment Porte agrees to simple Convention securing reciprocity in regard to appointment of Consuls in their respective territories.

In the interest of the Mussulman population in Servia, who are being arbitrarily despoiled of their property, this measure should be taken as soon as possible.

(Above communicated to Constantinople.)

No. 65.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 6, 10 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, July 5, 1879, 4 P.M.*

I HAVE been asked by Captain Sale to telegraph following:—

"Turkish Commissioner has again declined to take part in any demarcation of frontier other than of a temporary and provisional character.

"This the other Commissioners will not accept, and they will certainly reject also Turkish proposal for preliminary survey.

"Commission is, therefore, making no progress whatever, and is not likely to do [? so] until Turkish Commissioner receives peremptory orders to act in concert with majority, a course already assented to by him in the second Protocol, and until matter of Hussein Pasha has been carried out.

"Prince of Montenegro has made communication to Commission concerning an advance of Turkish troops against an outpost on the disputed frontier near Dulcigno, occupied by Montenegrins.

"[? Matter] has been for the time arranged, but in the present unsettled state of affairs a collision between troops of the opposing parties is not unlikely to occur.

"SALE."

No. 66.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 6.)

(No. 526.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 5, 1879, 10·30 P.M.*

PRINCE ALEXANDER arrived to-day. His audience of Sultan went off satisfactorily, and he appears to have made favourable impression upon His Majesty. He left in the afternoon for Varna. I sent Sir A. Sandison to pay my compliments to him, and to offer him any assistance that I could afford him. His Highness begged to thank me, and said that he was about to telegraph to the Queen.

Russian Ambassador remained close to him, so that Sandison had not an opportunity of saying more to him.

No. 67.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 6.)

(No. 11.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, July 5, 1879.*

DECREES for reorganization of militia and immediate establishment of gendarmerie were signed yesterday by Governor-General. A credit was also opened for gendarmerie. General Dickson and French Military Attaché leave to-morrow.

No. 68.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 6.)

(No. 13.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, July 5, 1879.*

FRENCH Commissioner has received instructions to place himself in accord with majority of Commission. Previous instructions have been issued on supposition that they were agreeable to Ottoman Government. Special mention is made of the contingency of calling in Turkish troops, respecting which the opinion and vote of Commission will be necessary.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 69.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 6.)

(No. 528.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 6, 1879.*

FOLLOWING from General Dickson, dated Philippopolis, yesterday:—

"Decrees for reorganization of militia and establishment of gendarmerie forthwith were signed yesterday by Governor-General. Credit also opened for gendarmerie. De Torey and I shall leave Sunday for Constantinople."

No. 70.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 86.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 6, 1879, 1 P.M.*

YOURS No. 103.

Be guided by your own judgment in the matter.

No. 71.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 88. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 6, 1879, 5·30 P.M.*

IN my telegram of to-day's date I have made reserves as to rights of all Powers on political questions. I have done so on account of the excessive claims of Italy.

No. 72.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 142.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 6, 1879, 5·45 P.M.*

URGE on Porte considerations contained in Mr. Kirby Green's telegram of 4th.

No. 73.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 872.)
Foreign Office, July 6, 1879.

Sir,

YOUR Excellency will have learnt from my telegram No. 142 of this day's date, that it is the wish of Her Majesty's Government that you should urge on the Porte that it is desirable that the Turkish Commissioners for the delimitation of the Montenegrin frontier should be at once instructed to revert to the majority system, as recommended in Mr. Kirby Green's telegram of the 4th instant, which he has communicated to your Excellency.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 74.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 448.)
Foreign Office, July 6, 1879.

Sir,

I LEARN from your Excellency's telegram of yesterday (No. 103) that all your colleagues concur with you in thinking that it will be advisable to await the result of the communication made by Count Andrassy at Bucharest, to which your telegram of the 3rd instant (No. 100) refers, before inviting him to convey to the Roumanian Government the proposed message from the Western Powers stating the terms upon which their recognition of Roumanian independence would be accorded.

I have telegraphed to you requesting you to be guided by your own judgment.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 75.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 454.)
Foreign Office, July 6, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE requested your Excellency, by telegraph, to inform me whether there is any truth in a story, which has been repeated to me very confidentially by the Italian Ambassador, according to which Count Andrassy will arrive to-morrow at St. Petersburgh.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 76.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 284.)
St. Petersburgh, June 23, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 282 of the 20th instant, M. de Giers informed me that Colonel Zelennoi, who had succeeded General Stebnitsky as the Russian Member of the Commission for the delimitation of the Asiatic frontier of Turkey, has been instructed to act on the principles laid down in the 18th Protocol of the 11th July 1878, and to draw the line of frontier in conformity with that which was traced upon the map exchanged between your Lordship and Count Schouvaloff.

Colonel Zelennoi has been furnished with a copy of the map referred to, and M. de Giers begged me to convey to your Lordship his hope that you would also send a copy of it to Major Clarke, and authorize him to accept it as the basis of the future line of frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 77.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 307.)
St. Petersburgh, July 2, 1879.

My Lord,

WHEN I called this afternoon on M. de Giers to announce to him the arrival of Her Majesty's Ambassador this evening, his Excellency said there was one subject which he wished to allude to, as the negotiations upon it have been carried on principally with me.

Count Schouvaloff had telegraphed that an understanding has been come to between Major Clarke and the Russian Commissioner respecting the line of frontier in Asia and the point whence the British Commissioner is to take part in the work of delimitation.

M. de Giers said he hoped this news was true, for he greatly deplored the delays which had taken place. At the same time he feared there must be a mistake somewhere, for his last accounts from Prince Labanoff showed Major Clarke to be still holding aloof from the Commission until its view of the question was conceded, or until he received your Lordship's instructions to re-enter it. I suggested to his Excellency that the Earl of Dufferin might probably bring information; that all I knew was that your Lordship had provided Major Clarke with a tracing of the map on which the line had been agreed upon with Count Schouvaloff, and I reminded his Excellency that he had, in our last interview on this subject, informed me that he had sent a copy of the map to Colonel Zelennoi, with instructions to take it as the basis on which to work out the line, and that his Excellency had further expressed the desire that Major Clarke should be also furnished with a copy, and similarly instructed to accept it as his guide.

M. de Giers went on to complain of Major Clarke as wishing to upset arrangements come to between the Turks and Russians, *i.e.*, a majority of the Commission, and also as wishing to interpret the words of the Treaty in a sense which they had not been intended to bear.

I said that the majority principle had not been accepted, nor could it be accepted,

as the mode of decision in this case. It was very good where several Powers were represented, as in the European Delimitation Commissions, but was impossible where three only took part.

As regards his second complaint against Major Clarke, his Excellency must recollect that the Treaty said from a point "west of Karaourgan," whereas the point which M. de Giers contended had been agreed upon between the Russian and Turkish Commissioners—but which I still believed had not been approved by the Turkish Government—was considerably to the south-west of Karaourgan, and therefore Major Clarke could not properly accept it.

M. de Giers said he sincerely hoped the information conveyed by Count Schouvaloff was correct, and that an arrangement had been come to. In order, however, to be quite certain that there was no mistake on this point, he begged me to telegraph to your Lordship at once, and inquire whether it was so or not.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 78.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 328. Most Confidential.)
Berlin, July 1, 1879.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 322, Confidential, of the 28th ultimo, I had the honour of reporting to your Lordship the views of the German Government with regard to the recognition of Roumania, as explained to me by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and to-day when I saw the French Ambassador, his Excellency told me that France would insist with England and Germany, before recognizing the independence of Roumania, upon the due fulfilment by the latter of the provisions connected with religious liberty which are contained in Article XLIV of the Berlin Treaty.

The Comte de St. Vallier added that he had announced this decision of the French Government to Prince Bismarck. The Chancellor had then informed his Excellency that Austria, notwithstanding the fact of her having an accredited Agent in Roumania, would now be prepared to support the representations of England and France, and, if necessary, to take part in the negotiations which, in the event of Roumania declining to listen to those representations, his Highness suggested should be undertaken at Constantinople, with the object of obtaining from her a settlement of this question in the sense desired by the four Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 79.

The Vienna Foreign Office to Count Károlyi.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Count Károlyi, June 7.)

(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, June 6, 1879.

WE are of the opinion of the English Government that no pretext ought to be given to the Albanians to complain of the Treaty not having been carried out. Our interests coincide with the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin, according to which the tribes of the Clementi, the Grudi, and the Hutti are to remain undivided with Albania. You can assure the Cabinet of St. James' that we also will do our best to see the question settled in that sense.

But if all the litigious points are to be submitted to a new topographical survey, there is danger in another way of the Treaty not being completely carried out. We quite agree that the stipulations accepted in Berlin ought not to be prejudiced by errors in the map, and we would, therefore, consent, where the boundary has been carried through the territory of one of the Albanian tribes, which, according to the spirit of the Treaty, ought to be left intact, to have the line of frontier rectified accordingly. But it seems necessary to us to avoid that new points of controversy, which could not be settled by reference to the Treaty of Berlin, should arise in consequence of the map of the Austrian General Staff being abandoned as the base of the works of the Commission.

The differences which have occurred in consequence of a few faults in the map appear to us to be of far less importance than the difficulties which would certainly arise if the map itself were given up. We strongly desire that the English and our Representatives should receive instructions in the same sense.

If the British Government is prepared to consent to the Austrian Staff Map being on the whole adopted as base for the works of the Commission, after it has been accepted by the majority of the Commission, we should not object to a new survey being taken on such points, where the majority of the Commission will have considered it absolutely necessary. We hereby start from the supposition that the Porte will have been induced to accept the majority principle.

No. 80.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 104.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, July 6, 1879.

RUSSIAN Ambassador has urged Count Andrassy to insist on strict adherence to the Austrian map in fixing the Montenegrin frontier; but his Excellency has told him that where majority of Commissioners believe by following map prescriptions of the Treaty respecting Albania tribes would not be secured a new survey should be made, and the frontiers drawn so as to carry out Treaty.

Count Andrassy also told me that Montenegrin Government had intimated to him that they intended to establish their capital at Podgoritza, but that they would not do so unless frontier was further removed from it; and they quote 12th Protocol of Congress in support of their demand for extending the frontier 8 or 10 kilom. Count Andrassy considers this demand, which is supported by Russia, to be put forward to give [group wrong; ? Montenegro] a favourable position for attack upon Albania, and he will strenuously resist it.

With regard to Gorica Topal, he repeated that Commissioners, with exception of Turkish, having been unanimous, their decision, which undoubtedly agrees with intentions of Powers at Berlin, ought to be maintained.

No. 81.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 7, 2·45 P.M.)

(No. 62.)
(Telegraphic.)
Rome, July 7, 1879, 1·15 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 61 of July 2, a comma should be placed after the words "Roumanian Assembly," instead of full stop, as in confidential print received to-day in your Lordship's despatch No. 372.

No. 82.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 7, 3 P.M.)

(No. 529.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, July 7, 1879, 1·50 P.M.

THERE seems to be some hesitation about the answer to be given to my note communicating the Convention relating to Somali Coast. I am pressing for one. Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me the Porte has telegraphed to Tewfik Pasha to take possession of coast between Zeilà and Ras-ut-Hafoun, to hoist Ottoman flag, to constitute Administration, to send functionaries, and not to permit any foreigners to settle there; and that arrangements as to the future government of Coast will be made hereafter.

No. 83.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July 7, 4 P.M.*)

(No. 105.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July 7, 1879, 12·30 P.M.*

AUSTRIAN Minister for Foreign Affairs says that if your Lordship would consent to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople joining his colleagues in recommending to Porte line of frontier which should include cession of Janina to Greece, and if the objections of Turkish Government to the proposal were found insuperable, he would then be prepared to join with you in advocating a line excluding the place in question, and giving Greece compensation in Thessaly.

His anxiety is that, if the Greeks are to be disappointed of the position they covet, it should be on account of an [? opposition] from Turkey, which could only be overcome at too great cost, rather than on account of any apparent diminution of sympathy shown for them by the Powers at Berlin.

No. 84.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July 7, 4·55 P.M.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Tirnovo, July 7, 1879, 12·25 P.M.*

PRINCE ALEXANDER arrives here to-morrow. The French, German, Italian, Russian, and Belgian Consuls-General are already here; Austrian expected to-morrow. They all have received their nominations as Diplomatic Agents, and their letters of credence to the Prince, except myself, so that I am the only one not accredited, which is very awkward. Please telegraph powers or instructions.

No. 85.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 876.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 7, 1879.*

YOUR Excellency's despatches Nos. 404 of the 16th May, and 485, 506, and 532 of last month, have been received and laid before the Queen.

The latter of these despatches incloses the decypher of a telegram which has been addressed to your Excellency by Lieutenant Chermside from Zeitoun, giving a lamentable account of the condition to which the population of that district has been reduced by the oppression of the Turkish officials.

Before this despatch can reach your Excellency you will be in possession of further detailed Reports which have been drawn up by Lieutenant Chermside on the proceedings of the Commission sent by the Porte to inquire into the condition of the Vilayet of Aleppo.

These Reports distinctly dispose of the assertion that Lieutenant Chermside had assumed an official position upon the Commission,* as was asserted by the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs, and with equal clearness do they establish the truth as to the real causes of the disturbed state of that part of the country.

It seems but too probable that the true facts will never be brought to the knowledge of the Porte by the Commission itself, and I have, therefore, to instruct your Excellency, if this has not been already done, to communicate to the Grand Vizier a Memorandum embodying the substance of the information which has been furnished to you by Lieutenant Chermside, and which may be accepted as the testimony of a witness who is entirely unbiassed by interested motives towards one or the other party.

For convenience of reference I inclose herewith copies of the last despatches from Lieutenant Chermside which have reached this Department.†

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* See Sir A. H. Layard's No. 506.

† Inclosure 4 in Consul Henderson's No. 17; Inclosures 8, 9, 10, and 11 in Consul Henderson's No. 18; Lieutenant Chermside's cypher telegram in Sir A. H. Layard's No. 532.

No. 86.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July 7, 10 P.M.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, July 7, 1879.*

GOVERNOR informs me that the Montenegrins have greatly augmented their troops in the direction of Dulcigno, and yesterday occupied the village of Selci. He has asked me to use my influence with the Prince to have provisional line agreed upon in the Vir-Bazar Protocol observed; and I am endeavouring to keep both parties from aggravating present state of affairs.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 87.

General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July 8.*)

(No. 33.)
My Lord, *Verbitza, June 21, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour, in continuation of my despatch No. 31, to inform you that the Russian map containing the actual position of Demir-Kapou had not reached the Commission at the date when they visited the Pass. I therefore desired Major Ardagh to make a sketch of it. The Russian map containing it arrived next day. The summit at that point is on thickly-wooded heights, and rests on slopes which are almost precipitous. The frontier line was fixed at the edge of the summit above these slopes, extending thus to each side of the road, and giving all the ground needful for defence. The road itself, though passable for Arabahs, is in many parts broken and difficult.

Inquiries were made respecting a path marked on the Austrian map as crossing the Balkans between Kotel and the village of Kiniloyo. It was reported in Kotel, by those inhabitants who proved to be acquainted with it, as being passable for the country carts, but exceedingly difficult on the northern slope. The watershed was retained as the frontier-line at this point, as the Russian map shows a good position at a short distance in rear.

Yesterday, the 20th, the Commission crossed the Balkans by the Kotel Pass. A good and broad road leads over it, and the Pass is among the most important. As the Commission fixes the line from Demir-Kapou eastward, under the conditions of the Treaty, as defined in the resolution contained in Protocol No. 19, and as this was the first instance in which that resolution became applicable, I took occasion before the discussion held to-day to exchange views with several Commissioners, in order to ascertain the interpretation which might be placed upon that resolution, and to obtain, if possible, the concurrence of the majority in giving to Turkey a good defensive position. A proposition was accordingly made, which the Russian Commissioner opposed, as contrary to a principle, but the Commission decided on interpreting its own resolution, and the frontier-line, as fixed, affords to Turkey the means of making her defences at this Pass exceedingly strong. The concessions made to her are greater than I expected, and all, I think, that could be wished, and the Turkish Commissioner and his officers have expressed themselves to me as very much gratified by the result.

To-morrow the Commission will visit the Verbitza Pass, after which it will separate, pursuant to the plan already communicated in my despatch No. 26. A part will proceed to view the ground at the remaining points from this Pass eastward; the other part will proceed at once to the western extremity of the frontier, and return thence to the point near Samakow, where the Commission began its work. The first part of the Commission will consist of the German, French, Italian, and British Commissioners; the other of the Russian, Austrian, and Turkish. I judged it expedient that I should remain myself, to observe the remainder of the Eastern part of the frontier, and have sent Major Ardagh to obtain information for me on the Western extremity, and the other Commissioners, who have officers attached to them, have assigned them to the portion which they do not visit themselves.

The Western party will necessarily arrive in Constantinople some time after the other, but all may be expected to meet there about the middle of July, when the remaining parts of the frontier will be finally settled, and laid down on certified maps for the various Governments, and the business of the Commission brought to an end.

The work on the frontier will thus be almost certainly finished within the limit

formerly named as desirable, of the 13th July, and much sooner than could last year have been anticipated. This degree of expedition has been rendered possible by the following causes:—

1. The existence of a sufficiently reliable topographical basis in the Russian map.

2. The adoption of the watershed as the general line of the frontier, which afforded at once a boundary admitting of no dispute.

3. The agreement arrived at by the Commission at Constantinople respecting the general principles on which its labours should be conducted; and finally, the decision to abide by the vote of the majority.

It being thus rendered possible to arrange beforehand the general plan of operations no difficulties occurred thenceforward in practice, and not a day has been lost in completing the task.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 88.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 12. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Philippopolis, June 24, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 10 of the 19th instant, inclosing the copy of a petition which had been addressed to the European Commission by the Elders of the Greek community of Philippopolis, complaining of the infringement of their lawful rights by the almost exclusive appointment of Bulgarians to public offices in this province, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that, with the concurrence, and partly by the advice, of my Austrian colleague, I convoked for this day a meeting of the Commission, for the purpose of laying before it the petition in question, and moving the two resolutions of which copies are inclosed.

The first resolution asserts a notorious fact, communicated to the Commission for the first time in a formal manner by the Greek memorialists, and affirms that, in the nominations made by the Governor-General, the interests of the ethnographical minorities existing in this province had not been sufficiently taken into consideration, in accordance with the spirit in which the Organic Statute, taken in its entirety, had been framed.

As, however, the general reply to all observations on the subject of those nominations is, that statistics prove the predominance of the Bulgarian element even in districts in which Greeks and Turks claim a majority, I thought it advisable to draw up a second resolution, calling the attention of the Governor-General to the necessity of carrying out immediately the measure indicated in paragraph 370 of the Organic Statute, which establishes a basis for recruitment of the militia, the reorganization of which is in course of being effected.

My Austrian colleague urged me strongly to move those resolutions, which he promised to support, and he was instrumental in convincing the Turkish Commissioners that such a course would serve the interests of the Porte by affording further grounds of objection to the nominations made by Aleko Pasha.

I believe that he also held conversations in the same sense with the French, German, and Italian Commissioners.

My own motives in taking the proposed course were: firstly, in order to prove that the British Government were not indifferent to the interests of indigenous minorities; secondly, in order that the silence of the British Commissioner in the matter of the nominations made by Aleko Pasha should not hereafter be interpreted as a tacit approval of a partiality opposed to the spirit of the Treaty of Berlin and to that of the Organic Statute; and, thirdly, in order to give the Porte some further and substantial grounds of objection to the weak acts of the Governor-General.

As regards the latter, M. de Kallay informed me that Aleko Pasha had himself expressed a desire that the Commission should strengthen his hands by condemning the appointments which he had made under Bulgarian pressure.

M. de Contouly, whom I sounded on the subject of the proposed motions, expressed himself in their favour, and evinced a willingness to adhere to them, as he was inclined to think that M. de Ring's declaration in respect to the scope of his instructions did not preclude the enunciation of an opinion such as I proposed to evoke; neither did he see the necessity of waiting for the return of M. de Ring.

Consequently, after a long deliberation with M. de Kallay and the Turkish Commissioners, I issued yesterday morning a notice convoking the Commission for this afternoon.

During the course of the day, however, I discovered that M. de Contouly had changed his mind in respect to the extent of his powers during the absence of M. de Ring, while the Italian Commissioner confirmed me in the opinion which I had already formed as to the motives of M. de Kallay, who is simply tired of his mission, and anxious to bring to a head the question of its further existence for any good or practical object. Moreover, the question of the acceptance of the vote of the majority of the Commission is still an open one.

Under these circumstances, and taking into consideration the warning which your Lordship, while approving of my proposals, had been good enough to convey to me by telegraph, I have deemed it more prudent to adjourn the meeting of the Commission, on the ground of the absence of the secretary, M. Rozet, who has not left behind him the minutes of the previous meeting.

Having reported this course to your Lordship by telegraph, I hope to be instructed whether, in consideration of the motives above mentioned, your Lordship deems it advisable that I should bring forward the inclosed resolutions at an early meeting of the Commission, regardless of the certain opposition of the Russian Commissioner, who is of opinion that "all is going on well," and of the possible neutrality of the German, French, and Italian Commissioners, although the latter approves, for the present, of the opinions set forth in those resolutions.

It appears to me that, since Great Britain and other Powers (excepting Russia) are as much interested as the Porte in preventing the "Bulgarization" of the local Government, in contravention of the spirit of the Treaty of Berlin, some action should be taken in order to prevent the silence of the Commission from being hereafter construed into a tacit acquiescence with the apparent non-activity of the Porte and the evident tendency of the measures forced upon Aleko Pasha by Bulgarian agitators, whose object is rather to create a Southern Bulgaria than to perpetuate an Eastern Roumelia composed of several races having equal political rights.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 88.

Resolution.

LA Commission Européenne, ayant entendu lecture du mémoire qui lui a été adressé par les démogérontes Grecs de Philippopoli, en date du 4/5 Juin, est d'avis, qu'effectivement, depuis la promulgation du Statut Organique, l'application de l'Article 21 de cet Acte n'a pas eu la portée qui lui avait été destinée par la Commission et que, par conséquent, dans la nomination des Administrateurs-Généraux et autres fonctionnaires publics, le Gouverneur-Général n'a pas suffisamment pris en considération, selon l'esprit dans lequel l'article du Statut Organique a été élaboré, les intérêts des principales minorités ethnographiques de la Roumélie Orientale.

Elle estime de son devoir de transmettre cette opinion au Gouverneur-Général, joignant copie du susdit mémoire.

Inclosure 2 in No. 88.

Résolution.

VU l'urgence d'accélérer la réorganisation de la milice provinciale sur les bases posées à cet effet par le Statut Organique, la Commission Européenne est d'avis que le Gouverneur-Général devrait procéder immédiatement à l'exécution de l'Article 370 du Statut qui exigé "qu'aussitôt après la promulgation du présent Statut on établira dans chaque commune un registre-matricule contenant les noms de tous les habitants mâles domiciliés dans la commune depuis les nouveaux-nés jusqu'aux hommes âgés de 32 ans révolus."

Selon l'avis de la Commission, l'absence de réfugiés ne saurait mettre un retard à l'exécution de cet Article, vu que les réfugiés doivent être portés dans les registres-matricules à fur et mesure qu'ils rentrent dans la province.

Le Président est chargé de transmettre au Gouverneur-Général copie de cet avis.

No. 89.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 15.) *Philippopolis, June 26, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of the motion or communication which the Austrian Commissioner was prevented from making at the meeting of the Commission this day, owing to the veto of Prince Tzeretelew.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 89.

Motion.

LA Commission est d'avis que, par suite des regrettables événements qui ont eu lieu à Carlovo Lundi dernier, une partie de la population de la Roumélie Orientale se trouve privée des droits et libertés accordés par les Articles 24, 27, 30, 33, 36 du Statut Organique à tous les citoyens, sans distinction de race et de religion, et que le Gouverneur-Général devrait prendre des mesures énergiques et efficaces pour assurer aux réfugiés Israélites de Carlovo leur installation paisible dans cette ville.

Elle invite en même temps son Président de transmettre sans délai copie de cette décision au Gouverneur-Général.

No. 90.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 16.) *Philippopolis, June 29, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a letter which has this day been placed in my hands as temporary President of the European Commission, inclosing the copy of a Report addressed to the Governor-General by M. Veneziani, the Representative of the Jewish Alliance, on the subject of the recent treatment of Jewish refugees at Carlovo.

Your Lordship will perceive that this document places in a most unfavourable light the conduct of the local authorities (with the exception of the Bailli), and, indeed, accuses them of complicity with the perpetrators of the outrage.

The inclosed Article from the "Maritza," while expressing regret at the incident, endeavours to palliate the conduct of the widows of Carlovo, who had, "probably, all seen Bashi-Bazouks enter their houses, accompanied by Hebrew denunciators, seeking to obtain at a wretched price the property of the victims of their denunciations," and states that the "excesses of Carlovo were directed solely against the assistant executioners of the 860 sorely tried widows of that town."

There is, I firmly believe, no foundation whatever for the accusation thus made against the Jews. Moreover, the local authorities had specified in a list, which they had forwarded to M. Veneziani, the Jews, whose presence at Carlovo might "produce a bad impression," and one of whom had unfortunately been dead six years. M. Veneziani at the same time states in his Report that, on the approach of the Jewish caravan, the local authorities satisfied themselves that none of the objectionable Jews were present.

The fact of the Jews of Carlovo being innocent of the charges now brought against them is attested in the letter addressed to M. Veneziani by the authorities of Carlovo, and in which it is stated that the Bulgarian inhabitants of that town "have never had any complaints or other causes for persecuting their good neighbours."

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 90.

M. Veneziani to Consul-General Michell.

M. le Délégué, *Philippopoli, le 26 Juin, 1879.*

J'AI l'honneur de remettre sous ce pli à votre Excellence copie du Rapport concernant les événements survenus dernièrement à Carlovo ayant trait aux manifestations faites autre les émigrés Israélites de cette ville pour leur installation, et dont original a été remis à son Altesse le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) D. VENEZIANI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 90.

Report.

JE, Soussigné, D. Veneziani, mandataire de l'Alliance Israélite, et du Baron de Hirsch, pour la réinstallation des émigrés de la Roumélie Orientale, après plusieurs voyages dans différentes localités de la province, où je m'étais acquitté du mandat qui m'était dévolu, et désireux de mener à bonne fin la tâche qui m'est confiée, sûr que j'étais du concours empressé des autorités locales, qui avaient jusqu'à ce jour facilité l'œuvre humanitaire entreprise, je me suis rendu, vers la fin du mois de Mai, dans la ville de Carlovo, pour m'entendre avec le Chef du district, M. Naïdenoff, sur les moyens à adopter pour aplanir les difficultés que je pourrais rencontrer dans la rentrée des emigrés de la dite ville.

Je fus reçu avec beaucoup d'affabilité par M. Naïdenoff, qui s'empressa d'accéder à ma demande, et fit réunir aussitôt les Conseils et Notables.

Les dits Conseils réunis discutèrent longuement, et un notable déclara nécessaire d'aviser la population. Mais plusieurs d'entre ses collègues alléguèrent que les Conseils réunis étaient à même de prendre une décision, sur quoi il fut décidé de me répondre que les émigrés pouvaient rentrer dans leurs foyers respectifs, sauf, toutefois, quelques-uns qui étaient compromis dans les derniers événements, et dont la liste me serait remise.

J'ai proposé, alors, un délai de quinze jours pour dresser la dite liste et me la faire parvenir à Philippopoli, où je devais me rendre, proposition qui fut accepté, et je pris alors congé du Conseil.

Quelques jours après j'ai reçu, de la part du Métropolitain Bulgare de Philippopoli, une liste contenant les noms de vingt-cinq familles, avec détails circonstanciés de la part prise par chacune d'elles dans les événements passés.

Un fait, cependant, assez curieux, et que je ne puis passer sous silence, c'est que, de mon côté, désireux de connaître le degré de culpabilité des personnes qui m'étaient signalées comme suspectes et ne pouvant rentrer dans leurs foyers, j'ai pris des renseignements et ai pu constater, par différents rapports qui m'étaient adressés, que parmi le nombre de ces personnes il s'en trouvait une qui était morte depuis six ans et ne pouvait, par conséquent, avois pris une part quelconque aux événements susdits.

Me trouvant un jour chez M. Tchemnikoff à Philippopoli, j'y rencontrai le Chef du District de Carlovo, M. Naïdenoff, avec lequel je m'entretins au sujet de la différence des renseignements à moi fournis. Ce dernier, devant se rendre à Carlovo bientôt, promit de s'occuper et d'arranger cette affaire à l'amiable, et de me faire parvenir une lettre, m'engageant à prendre des dispositions pour la rentrée des émigrés, ne me demandant, d'ailleurs, qu'un délai de trois jours pour l'envoi de la susdite lettre.

Après une attente de douze jours je me décidai à envoyer un courrier au Chef du District de Carlovo et au Président de la Municipalité, pour leur rappeler la promesse qu'ils m'avaient faite. Deux jours après j'ai reçu une lettre, apportée par le même courrier que j'avais envoyé, laquelle, signée du Chef du District, du Président du Tribunal, du Président de la Municipalité, et du Président du Conseil Administratif, en date du 1/13 Juin de la présente année, et dont annexe ci-jointe, permettra de juger du degré de confiance qu'elle m'inspira.

Sans plus tarder j'ai réunis les émigrés de Carlovo, et, leur ayant exposé le contenu de la susdite lettre, je les engageais à se préparer pour pouvoir commencer l'opération de rapatriement.

Parti de Philippopoli le Samedi, 21 Juin, accompagné de deux personnes, mon premier devoir, en arrivant à Carlovo, fut d'avoir une entrevue avec les autorités. Ces derniers répétèrent, pour la troisième fois, que les logements étaient préparés, et que tous les ordres nécessaires avaient été donnés pour recevoir les émigrés.

Sur ces entrefaites sont arrivées plusieurs femmes, implorant et demandant secours.

Ému par leurs instances, je me suis décidé à remettre la somme de 110 roubles à la dame Lazzaroona, Présidente d'une Société de Bienfaisance, instituée dans la ville de Carlovo.

Dans une visite faite à la dite dame, accompagné du Président de la Municipalité, de mon Secrétaire, et de quelques Notables, pour la prier d'accepter l'offrande que je faisais à la Société de Bienfaisance, celle-ci insista pour rejeter mon offre, mais finit par céder à mes instances, et accepter.

En sortant de chez Mdme. Anna Lazzaroona, je rencontrai M. Naïdenoff, lequel ordonna au Secrétaire de la Municipalité de l'accompagner, et de me faire visiter une maison Turque, sous le nom de "Mutevelt Effendi," ainsi que plusieurs maisons Israélites encore en assez bon état, mais toutes occupées par des Bulgares.

Le Secrétaire de la Municipalité m'a conseillé à différentes reprises de demander pour le logement des émigrés les maisons visitées, et qui, en somme, n'étaient que la propriété des arrivants; et que lui, de son côté, s'engageait à faire déloger les familles Bulgares qui y demeuraient, dans les vingt-quatre heures. Je répondis qu'il n'était pas nécessaire de déranger les familles qui y logeaient, vu que la Municipalité avait déjà pourvu au placement des émigrés, et désireux, surtout, que j'étais de ne donner aucune prise à malveillance. Puis nous nous sommes décidés à rentrer pour prendre conseil des autorités, et nous concerter sur le mode de réception à employer pour éviter la confusion.

Mais, à mon grand étonnement, nous n'avons trouvé personne à qui pouvoir nous adresser à cet effet.

Après une vaine attente et des courses multiples, pour tâcher de trouver les personnes avec lesquelles une entrevue eut été nécessaire, la nuit vint nous surprendre sans autre résultat.

Dans cet état de choses, je pris la résolution d'envoyer une personne à Banyakoui, pour arrêter la marche du convoi des émigrés et attendre le lendemain l'ouverture des bureaux, mais ce fut inutile. Cependant, je finis par rencontrer le Président de la Municipalité; ce fût le Lundi, à 7 heures du matin, qu'il m'aborda, et sans me donner le temps de lui demander des explications sur la manière de procéder des autorités, il me pria de reprendre la somme offerte à la Société de Bienfaisance pour secours, alléguant que les pauvres de la ville n'étaient pas assez nécessiteux pour accepter l'offrande, et même, au cas contraire, la Municipalité était assez riche pour les nourrir et les entretenir, au besoin, à ses frais. (Discours tout-à-fait contraire au langage tenu la veille.)

J'ai insisté, l'on ne peut plus, et ai refusé de reprendre cet argent.

Durant cette discussion, une personne est venue m'avertir que le convoi, s'étant mis en marche, se trouvait aux portes de la ville; aussitôt je me suis rendu à la Municipalité, et me suis adressé à la Municipalité pour lui demander aide.

Ce dernier m'a répondu que les gendarmes étaient déjà partis pour aller à la rencontre des émigrés et les escorter.

De mon côté, j'ai pris une voiture et ai invité le Secrétaire de la Municipalité à y prendre place, avec lequel j'ai conversé durant le trajet. Tout à coup, se tournant vers moi, il me dit: "Quelle drôle de destinée que d'être obligé d'aller recevoir des gens qui sont cause que mon père et mes frères ont été pendus!"

J'étais d'autant plus étonné de ce langage que, jusqu'à ce moment, il avait fait preuve de beaucoup de modération, et que, qui plus est, ne connaissait en aucune façon les nouveaux arrivants.

Il est juste même de faire savoir que, par extrême prudence, je m'étais abstenu de faire faire parti du convoi les familles supposées suspectes par la liste dont j'ai parlé plus haut.

Enfin, arrivés près des émigrés, nous avons été obligés d'attendre plus de deux heures l'arrivée des gendarmes, partis, au nombre de quatre et un officier, d'après le dire du Secrétaire de la Municipalité, bien avant nous.

Le signal du départ est de nouveau donné; nous pénétrons en ville, et la traversons, fort heureusement sans accident, pour nous rendre au konak dit de "Muteveli Effendi," mais non sans être menacés. Quelques instants après il en fut autrement.

Dans la cour du konak, un Bulgare, dont le nom ne me revient pas, prit le Rabbin par la gorge, et soudain un autre Bulgare du nom de Volti, vociférant mille imprécations contre les émigrés, tout en offensant brutalement les femmes, disait, entre autres choses, que ces derniers étaient venus à Carlovo pour brûler la ville, et qu'ils devaient partir sans délai.

Ses cris et ses menaces furent le signal de l'émeute.

Je fis avertir aussitôt l'autorité, en lui demandant de prendre toutes les précautions pour éviter de nouvelles aggressions de la part de ces forcenés.

Le Chef du District, le Président de la Municipalité et son Secrétaire, après avoir constaté qu'aucun des supposés coupables désignés dans la lettre remise par eux, ne se trouvaient parmi les émigrés, ayant reconnu que les gens présents n'étaient autres que des gens paisibles, honnêtes, et innocents, me donnèrent l'assurance qu'ils garantissaient leur sureté et assumaient toute responsabilité sur eux.

Les Israélites demandèrent cependant leur renvoi à Philippopoli, "car," disaient-ils, "nous ne pourrons supporter les mauvais traitements que l'on nous fera subir."

Je ne crus pas devoir adhérer à cette demande, alléguant qu'ils n'avaient rien à craindre, protégés qu'ils étaient par l'autorité.

Mais, cependant, quelques minutes après, la muraille du jardin fut démolie, les portes enfoncées, et une pluie de pierres commença à tomber et blessa deux femmes gravement.

Tout ceci ne me rassurait point sur la prétendue protection des autorités, et je n'ajoutais plus qu'une foi médiocre aux paroles prononcées par les Notables.

Jugeant que je pourrais avoir besoin des voitures qui avaient servi au transport, et qui se trouvaient être au nombre de vingt-deux, je leur donnai l'ordre d'attendre.

Mais, aussitôt que l'on sût que je retenais les voitures, et pour m'ôter les seuls moyens de transport au cas où nous serions dans la nécessité de fuir la ville, plusieurs personnes ont offert un prix supérieur au mien, pour les engager à partir, mais deux voituriers seulement répondirent à l'appel de ces gens sans aveu, qui, non contents de maltraiter et d'empêcher l'installation des pauvres émigrés, voulaient par ce fait leur enlever le seul moyen de locomotion qui se trouvait à leur disposition pour échapper aux persécutions.

La foule ne se contenait même plus devant les autorités; leurs cris ne faisaient que redoubler.

Cependant, il y eut une trêve, bien courte il est vrai, mais, en ce moment, je crus, ainsi que M. Naïdenoff, qui se trouvait près de moi, que la fureur de ce populace avait fini par se lasser.

Tout au plus une heure après une personne vint nous avertir que les cris et les scènes de désordre recommençaient, et que la populace se préparait à forcer de nouveau la maison dans laquelle se trouvaient les émigrés. Je me rendis immédiatement sur les lieux de l'émeute et aperçus quelques gendarmes qui, malgré tous leurs efforts, allaient être débordés par la foule; je les encourageai de mon mieux et envoyai aussitôt avertir les autorités. Je fus même frappé deux fois, et ce n'est que grâce à mon domestique que j'ai dû de ne pas être écrasé.

Vu la dangereuse position dans laquelle je me trouvais, ainsi que les émigrés, vu le nombre considérable et toujours augmentant de la foule (1,500) personnes environ, femmes, hommes, et enfants) et m'apercevant qu'un certain nombre de personnes grimpaient sur les toits pour enlever les tuiles et se pratiquer un chemin pour pénétrer plus aisément dans la maison, j'attendais avec impatience le retour de la personne envoyée à la recherche des autorités. Celle-ci ne parvint et ne pût, comme la première fois, trouver quelqu'un dans les bureaux du konak ni dans leurs maisons, et ce n'est qu'après maintes recherches qu'il finit par découvrir qu'ils étaient dans une maison, que j'ai su plus tard n'être la demeure d'aucun d'eux, réunis autour d'une table et en train de déjeuner du meilleur appétit. Il les mit au courant et leur expliqua ce qu'il désirait d'eux. Il lui fut répondu qu'ils ne pouvaient rien faire, vu le manque de forces suffisantes. Cependant, seul, M. Naïdenoff, Chef du District de Carlovo, se leva pour se rendre sur les lieux, mais il en était empêché par les autres qui l'engageaient à rester, et ce n'est qu'après bien des difficultés qu'il parvint à se débarrasser d'eux et est venu me rejoindre.

A son arrivée, voyant qu'il était impossible de contenir la foule, il me conseilla de faire évacuer la maison, et de prendre les mesures nécessaires avant d'avoir d'autres accidents à déplorer. Voyant aussi par moi-même que tout était inutile, que tout moyen de conciliation avait été épuisé, je donnai ordre de préparer les voitures pour commencer l'évacuation.

Sous une grêle de pierres et une confusion indescriptible, après avoir chargé

les chariots, nous parvînmes à franchir les barrières de la ville, mais une troisième femme fut blessée au front dangereusement. M. Naïdenoff fut on ne peut plus maltraité.

Il convient de dire ici, à la louange de cette personne, qu'il a fait son devoir en tout point, n'a reculé devant rien, et n'a pas craint de s'exposer même pour arriver à apaiser cette populace furieuse; mais, obligé de céder à la pression, et se trouvant isolé par le fait de l'abandon des personnes influentes de la ville et des autorités, qui, aidé d'elles, serait aisément parvenu à leur faire entendre raison.

Nous avons escorté les émigrés à 2 kilom. hors de la ville, quand la population, venant par un autre chemin, se précipita vers l'unique pont, par où devaient passer les voitures.

A l'arrivée de ces dernières, insultes, cris, coups, rien ne fut épargné à ces pauvres gens s'en retournant d'un pays où ils abandonnaient pour la seconde fois le peu qu'une guerre désastreuse avait pu laisser subsister.

Après le passage du pont, auquel les gendarmes ont puissamment contribué, je suis retourné à la ville, accompagné de M. Naïdenoff. Désireux de voir quelques personnes avant de quitter Carlovo, je ne pus encore les retrouver.

M. Naïdenoff est venu me voir avant mon départ, et m'a exprimé ses regrets pour cette malheureuse affaire, persuadé, me disait-il, que cette émeute avait été excitée par des personnes qu'il soupçonnait de connivence avec les autorités, qui n'étaient pas exemptes de toute complicité.

Au moment de quitter la ville, un membre de la Municipalité me remit la somme d'argent que j'avais donné à titre de secours aux Bulgares.

Parti de Carlovo à 6 heures du soir, j'ai rencontré en route le convoi des émigrés qui s'en retournait, et l'ai accompagné jusqu'à Philippopoli, où nous sommes arrivés le Mardi à 4 heures du matin, après avoir marché toute la nuit.

Voilà la description exacte et fidèle des faits et des désordres qui se sont produite à Carlovo.

Je laisse à la juste appréciation de son Altesse, le Prince A. Vogoridès, Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale, les faits que je viens de relater ci-dessus.

(Signé) D. VENEZIANI.

Philippopoli, le $\frac{13}{25}$ *Juin*, 1879.

Inclosure 3 in No. 90.

MM. Naïdenoff and Lasaroff to M. Veneziani.

(Traduction du Bulgare.) *Carlovo, le* $\frac{6}{18}$ *Juin*, 1879.

EN réponse à votre lettre en date du $\frac{5}{17}$ Juin, nous avons l'honneur de vous informer qu'aujourd'hui même, le $\frac{6}{18}$ Juin, 1879, nous nous sommes réunis, les trois Conseils ainsi que quelques-uns de nos Notables, et d'un commun accord nous avons décidé de porter à votre connaissance, pour la seconde fois, que la population Bulgare de Carlovo, comme elle n'a jamais eu ni plainte, ni autres causes pour persécuter ses bons voisins Israélites, est non-seulement disposée de les accepter, et est satisfaite en les voyant rentrer dans leurs foyers, mais aussi est satisfaite de les aider de ses faibles forces, et leur faciliter autant qu'elle le peut leur réinstallation. Enfin, sans prendre en considération la liste qui a été donnée par la Municipalité, tous les Israélites, nos voisins, qui se sentent innocents, et dont la présence ne produirait pas une mauvaise impression, ni ne serait cause de trouble pour le public, peuvent tout librement et sans scrupule retourner chez eux lorsqu'il leur paraîtra bon.

Le Préfet,
(Signé) NAÏDENOFF.

Le Président du Tribunal d'Arrondissement,
CHRISTO LASAROFF.

Le Président de la Municipalité,
CH. M. ASTARJIEFF.

Le Président du Conseil Municipal,
J. GROZEFF.

Inclosure 4 in No. 90.

Extract from the "Maritza" of June $\frac{15}{27}$, 1879.

Plovdiv, le $\frac{15}{27}$ *Juin*, 1879.

DES désordres regrettables viennent de se produire à Karlovo à l'occasion du retour des émigrés Israélites.

Dans notre numéro du 29 Mai nous faisant l'interprète de M. Veneziani, représentant du Baron de Hirsch, nous décernions des éloges aux habitants de Karlovo, et particulièrement au Chef du District, M. Naïdenoff, pour l'excellent accueil qu'ils se déclaraient prêts à faire à tous les fugitifs Israélites. Dans le numéro du $\frac{5}{17}$ Juin de la "Maritza," M. Veneziani rendait lui-même un hommage public à M. Naïdenoff et aux habitants de Karlovo, "qui ont," disait-il, "promis de faire au Israélites un chaleureux accueil." Rien ne faisait donc prévoir les difficultés auxquelles la réinstallation des Israélites dans leurs foyers s'est heurtée. Mais on avait fait les comptes sans son hôte, et l'hôte, le maître à Karlovo, c'est l'élément féminin. Ce sont ces 860 veuves devenues déjà légendaires par la rage furibonde qui les anime à l'égard des bourreaux de leurs maris et de leurs enfants. Ce ressentiment violent s'étend même aux hommes de Karlovo qui ont survécu à l'égorgement général, parce qu'ils ont su fuir à temps. Cette fuite les 860 veuves ne cessent de la leur reprocher comme une lâcheté; et voilà pourquoi les Notables de Karlovo appartenant pour la plupart à la classe des fuyards, loin d'autorité quelconque sur les femmes, seraient, au contraire, sûrs d'être écharpés les premiers s'ils s'avisaient à intervenir dans une émeute des veuves.

Il nous en coûte d'être obligé d'ouvrir d'anciennes blessures; mais, nous ne pouvons autrement présenter les désordres de Karlovo sous leur véritable jour. Et, en effet, qui de nous n'est pas intimement convaincu que ces Pachas qui s'excusent aujourd'hui des atrocités commises sur les Bulgres, en disant:—"Ce sont les Grecs et les Juifs qui nous y poussaient!" n'ont pas tout-à-fait tort? Dans les grands centres, sous l'œil des autorités supérieures et des forces armées suffisantes, la population Bulgare ne se livre nulle part à des excès contre ses anciens oppresseurs, et on y voit des Grecs, dont l'amusement suprême à l'époque sinistre des pendaisons en masse consistait à balancer les jambes des Bulgares pendus, faire tranquillement leur commerce. Mais à Karlovo, où presque tous les hommes ont été égorgés, où les femmes et enfants survivants sans soutien de famille se comptent par milliers, et où il n'y a pour toute force armée qu'une dizaine de gendarmes, rien de ce qui rappelle des temps sinistres ne saurait y faire sa réapparition sans provoquer des troubles. Or, ces 860 femmes ont probablement toutes vu pénétrer des Bachi-Bazouks dans leurs maisons en compagnie de dénonciateurs Israélites cherchant à se saisir à vil prix de la fortune des victimes de leurs dénonciations.

Dans ces conditions, M. Veneziani, s'il tenait absolument à précipiter la réinstallation de ses coreligionnaires dans les lieux de leurs plus cyniques exploits, aurait dû au moins s'informer auprès des autorités locales si elles ont des forces suffisantes sous la main pour pouvoir contenir toute velléité de vengeance de 860 veuves. Il ne l'a pas fait, et on sait ce qui est arrivé: les veuves qui attribuent leur infortune en grande partie à la rapacité Israélite, se sont rassemblée à la nouvelle de l'arrivée des Juifs, et elles ont fait mine de les chasser par la force. Les autorités et les quelques gendarmes ont fait leur devoir; mais contre la force il n'y avait pas de résistance. A toutes les exhortations de M. Naïdenoff, le Bailli de Karlovo, les veuves répondirent:—"Tais-toi! tu n'as pas le droit de parler, car ta femme et tes enfants ont à qui demander leur pain. Mais nous et nos enfants nous n'avons plus personne, et ce sont ces misérables qu'on veut aujourd'hui réinstaller chez nous, qui, pour pouvoir acheter pour quelques paras nos produits aux Bachi-Bazouks, ont livré nos maris au bourreau." Finalement, quelques pierres furent lancées contre les Juifs, et ceux durent retourner à Philippopoli.

Nous n'avons pas à dire combien nous regrettons ces désordres dont tout le poids sera jeté sur nos populations. Déjà nous voyons nos ennemis se réjouir d'avoir un prétexte pour rééditer leurs éternelles diatribes sur la "sauvagerie et l'intolérance" des Bulgares; déjà nous les voyons se prévaloir d'un rassemblement tumultueux de femmes exaspérées pour démontrer la nécessité des garnisons Turques. A nos détracteurs nous nous contenterons de répondre: voyez ce qui se passe en Roumanie. Les Valaques sont un peuple qui jouit depuis de longues années d'une dépendance complète, il a eu tout le loisir de se développer, de se civiliser. Et cependant la persécution des Juifs, qui ne font en somme aucun mal aux Roumains, y est en permanence, et l'intervention la plus énergique de la diplomatie Européenne est encore aujourd'hui

impuissante à arracher aux Chambres Roumaines un vote admettant l'égalité des droits pour les Israélites. Chez nous, au contraire, les Israélites jouissent partout pleinement des droits de leurs concitoyens Bulgares avec lesquels ils partagent aussi toutes les charges publiques. Ainsi, encore tout récemment les Israélites de la seule ville de Sophia ont fourni sans la moindre difficulté 200 conscrits, c'est-à-dire, plus que n'en fourniront jamais les Grecs de la Roumélie Orientale. En un mot, la persécution de l'Israélite à cause de sa qualité d'Israélite est et restera inconnue en Bulgarie; les excès de Karlovo, nous l'avons suffisamment démontré, ont été dirigés uniquement contre les aides-bourreaux des 860 veuves de cette ville si cruellement éprouvée. Si on prend encore en considération que les femmes de Karlovo n'ont trouvé devant elles aucune force armée capable d'arrêter l'explosion de leurs justes ressentiments, on pourra les condamner, mais en bonne âme et conscience, on ne pourra pas refuser à ces malheureux un sentiment de compassion.

Nous ne saurions terminer cet article sans poser au département de nos forces publiques la question: les trois compagnies de la 4e droujine, 600 à 700 hommes, qui doivent tenir garnison à Karlovo, sont-elles encore de ce monde?

No. 91.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 18.)
My Lord,

Philippopolis, June 28, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report that General Sir Collingwood Dickson, accompanied by Captain de Torey, French Military Attaché at Constantinople, arrived here yesterday afternoon, and at once proceeded to carry out the instructions with which he is charged.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 92.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 19. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Philippopolis, June 28, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 15 of the 26th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that, previous to the meeting of the Commission, Prince Tzeretelew had endeavoured to induce M. de Coutouly to join him in preventing the Austrian Commissioner from making a communication to the Commission on the subject of the outrage on the Jews at Carlovo.

M. de Coutouly refused to join him in such an illogical course, and the Russian Commissioner having since spoken to M. de Ring on the subject of that refusal, the latter told Prince Tzeretelew that he entirely approved the course that had been taken by the Assistant Commissioner.

M. de Coutouly also informs me that Baron de Ring has brought with him no new instructions in respect to his functions as Commissioner, and that he has even reason to believe that the Turkish Commissioners have recently received instructions "still more divergent than their previous powers from those under which I am authorized to act."

Assim Pasha had told me after the last meeting of the Commission that he had received further instructions, but that he did not consider it opportune to mention their character.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 93.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 20.)
My Lord,

Philippopolis, June 28, 1879.

AS temporary President of the European Commission, I have this day received from the Governor-General the letter of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, asking the Commission to explain the meaning and the spirit of certain Articles of the Organic Statute, which his Excellency quotes with reference to a misunderstanding that has arisen between the local Government and the Porte, on the subject of the organization and management of the postal and telegraphic services in this province.

The Director of Public Works consulted me on this subject a few days ago, and I advised him to take the course which has thus been adopted by the Governor-General.

It is a matter of urgent necessity to obtain from the Russian authorities the transfer of the telegraphic service, and, therefore, much dilatory correspondence with the Porte will be saved if the Commission can be induced to settle the question submitted to it by the Governor-General.

I am inclined to the opinion that the question should be decided in favour of the local Government, if only on the ground that the Porte is merely entitled to a certain portion of the proceeds of the telegraphic service, which must, therefore, logically, be conducted by local officials appointed and controlled by the provincial Government.

At the same time, the course pursued by the Governor-General in referring this question to the Commission is calculated to be of good service in clearing up the attitude and intentions of certain members of the Commission, while a decision in favour of the local Government would have the effect of inducing the latter to apply more frequently to the Commission for the aid and advice which his Excellency so greatly needs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 93.

Prince Vogoridi to Consul-General Michell.

M. le Président,

Philippopoli, le $\frac{19}{31}$ Juin, 1879.

VU l'Article 7, alinéa 3; l'Article 17, alinéa 2; l'Article 19, alinéa 2; l'Article 51, alinéa 3; et l'Article 198, alinéa 1, 2, 3, et 4, du Statut Organique, j'ai chargé M. le Dr. Vulcovitch de s'occuper de l'organisation et de la direction des postes et télégraphes de la Roumélie Orientale.

Comme Haidar Effendi, Directeur des Postes et des Télégraphes à Constantinople, par sa lettre en date du 18 Mai, maintient que ce droit est absolument réservé à l'Empire Ottoman ainsi que son Envoyé Makri Effendi, fonctionnaire supérieur des télégraphes Ottomans, vient de soutenir, je m'adresse à l'honorable Commission Européenne avec prière de vouloir bien m'expliquer le sens et l'esprit dans lesquels les Articles sus-mentionnés du Statut Organique ont été écrits et l'interprétation, qu'elle croit nécessaire d'y donner et m'informer, en même temps, à qui est réservé le droit d'organiser et de diriger les postes et les télégraphes de la Roumélie Orientale.

Veuillez, &c.
Le Gouverneur-Général,
(Signé) A. VOGORIDI.

No. 94.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 547.)
My Lord,

Therapia, June 25, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a note from the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, informing me of the establishment of a public Ministry for the Tribunals of First Instance and Courts of Appeal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 94.

Carathéodory Pasha to Sir A. H. Layard.

Constantinople, le 23 Juin, 1879.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

J'AI l'honneur d'informer votre Excellence que, dans le but d'assurer la marche régulière de la justice, le Gouvernement Impérial vient d'instituer un Ministère Public près les Tribunaux de Première Instance et les Cours d'Appel. Ces fonctions seront exercées par des Procureurs Impériaux, ou leurs substituts, nommés par Iradé Impérial.

En portant cette mesure à la connaissance de votre Excellence, je la prie de vouloir bien la communiquer aux Consulats placés sous sa juridiction.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) A. C. CARATHÉODORY.

No. 95.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July 8.*)

(No. 548.)

Therapia, June 25, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a letter addressed to me by certain persons styling themselves Cretan refugees at Athens, and of its inclosure. I have had some hesitation in receiving this document, which was sent to me by the post; but, on the whole, I have thought it better not to return it. I have sent a copy of it to Consul Sandwith, who will, no doubt, be able to give a satisfactory answer to the statements contained in it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 95.

Letter addressed to Sir A. H. Layard by Cretan Refugees at Athens.

Athènes, le 21 Juin, 1879.

Excellence,

LES Crétois soussignés, ayant demandé à son Excellence Mr. Corbett pour lui remettre de la part de leurs compatriotes domiciliés à Athènes et au Pirée une déclaration, à laquelle ont déjà adhéré les autres Crétois residant en Grèce, la Chancellerie de cette Légation leur fit savoir que son Excellence le Ministre de Sa Majesté Britannique ne pouvait recevoir de leurs mains la déclaration en question, vu que les affaires de Crète ressortissaient à l'Ambassade Royale à Constantinople.

Aussi ont-ils l'honneur de transmettre ci-inclose à votre Excellence la déclaration susdite, et de vous supplier de vouloir bien la faire parvenir au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique.

Nous avons, &c.

(Suivent les signatures.)

Inclosure 2 in No. 95.

Statement.

LES Crétois réfugiés et résidant à Athènes ont lu avec grande surprise dans le "Blue Book" récemment publié les documents publiés concernant l'Ile de Crète. Ces pièces contiennent des allégations qui portent atteinte à l'honneur de notre pays et sont en pleine contradiction à l'histoire de son passé. Aussi M. Sandwith écrit que beaucoup des émigrés influents lui ont écrit qu'il n'avait que donner le signal pour le pavillon Anglais flotte d'un pont de l'autre de l'île. Ailleurs il déclare que ce sont les subsides en argent envoyés de Grèce à quelques-uns des Chefs qui provoquent les insurrections.

Nous croyons nécessaire, M. le Ministre, de vous rappeler que toutes ces allégations sont démenties par notre histoire, et d'en demander très-humblement la réfutation.

De pareilles assertions pourraient exercer une influence funeste sur l'avenir de notre patrie.

Le Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique à la Canée, probablement malconseillé, a méconnu l'état de choses au point de croire que le pavillon Anglais pourrait, du plein gré du peuple Crétois, flotter d'un bout de l'autre de l'île.

Il est vrai que le pavillon Anglais pouvait être hissé et dûment honoré en Crète, comme c'est le cas dans toute contrée Hellénique. C'est une prérogative que l'Angleterre aussi bien que les deux autres Puissances Protectrices de la Grèce s'est acquise par ses sacrifices en faveur de la régénération de la Grèce, ses bienfaits ultérieurs qu'elle a couronnés par la cession des Iles Ioniennes, et la protection de l'élément Hellénique dans les provinces de la Turquie qui restent encore sous son joug.

Mais tout cela ne signifie point que la Crète pourrait devenir oublieuse de sa nationalité, de son histoire, pour demander une protection Anglaise ou toute autre protection étrangère.

L'histoire de Candie depuis les temps les plus reculés, et surtout depuis 1821 jusqu'à ce jour, n'est qu'une suite de longues luttes endurées pour la liberté de la Crète et son union avec la Grèce, union basée sur le principe des nationalités, laquelle, malgré toute l'opposition qu'on lui a faite, est dans la voie de la pleine réalisation. Nous croyons pouvoir abstenir de joindre à la présente, à l'appui de nos paroles, des copies des Décrets des Assemblées Nationales de Crète des années 1821, 1841 1866, 1869, 1877, 1878. Ces Décrets sont connus à tout homme de l'Etat, et ont été envoyés à temps à tous les Cabinets de l'Europe. Il est malheureusement vrai que les insurrections réitérées du peuple Crétois proviennent de sa libre initiative, et visant à son indépendance n'ont pas encore abouti. Notre future gémit sous le joug de l'esclavage, dans le temps où d'autres peuples, n'ayant pas à produire la minime part de nos titres à la liberté, ont acquis leur liberté. Mais si nous souffrons de notre sort, nous n'en sommes pas accablés ni désespérés. Nous n'oublierons pas pour cela, ni notre passé, ni nos devoirs à la patrie.

Confiant en notre droit, nous sommes, au contraire, pleinement convaincus qu'il sera tôt ou tard reconnu, et que notre pays, si cruellement éprouvé, n'ayant plus de sacrifices à subir, pourra marcher libre dans l'avenir dans la voie du progrès et de la civilisation dont il a été le foyer.

Le Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique nous a fait un grand tort en alléguant que ce sont des subsides envoyés de la Grèce qui ont dicté aux Crétois leurs sentiments pour la Grèce libre. Etre pour la Grèce, c'est être pour la Crète, c'est être pour nous-mêmes. Toutes les populations Helléniques ne sont que membres d'une grande et même famille unie par les souffrances. Les secours en argent alloués à quelques-uns des Soussignés ne sauraient en rien influencer les sentiments de notre devoir commun. C'est un devoir moral et respectable de tout Gouvernement civilisé de secourir les malheureux réfugiés, et le Gouvernement Hellénique n'a fait aujourd'hui et autrefois envers les réfugiés que ce que tout autre Gouvernement aurait fait à sa place.

Nous prions votre Excellence de vouloir bien faire parvenir au Gouvernement de la Reine notre déclaration présente, accompagnée de l'expression de notre gratitude pour tous ses efforts en faveur de notre grandeur nationale, ainsi que de notre espoir sur la bienveillante protection qui ne manquera point d'obtenir pour nous ce qu'elle a déjà fait pour les Iles Ioniennes.

(Suivent les signatures.)

No. 96.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July 8.*)

(No. 549.)

Therapia, June 25, 1879.

My Lord,

THE two Albanians, Mehemed Ali Vrion and Abdul Bey Phrochari, who have been travelling about Europe claiming to be the representatives of their countrymen, called upon me yesterday. I thought it best, under present circumstances, not to receive them. Their movements here are watched with much suspicion, and if they had an interview with me they might put a wrong construction upon anything I said, or might misrepresent what passed.

Carathéodory Pasha informs me, that when they called upon him they spoke of the rights and interests of Albania as if it was an autonomous province, with a distinct nationality, and that he had to remind them that he could only listen to them as

No. 99.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 562.)
My Lord,

Therapia, June 29, 1879.

THE Sultan informed me yesterday that he had acceded with much pleasure to a request that Prince Alexander of Battenberg had made to him to be permitted to land and visit him for a short time when passing through the Bosphorus on the way to Varna.

His Majesty said that he should thus have the satisfaction of seeing, and personally conferring with, His Highness, without the risk that had been anticipated from his presence in Constantinople. He had received excellent accounts of the young Prince, and he hoped that when political affairs were more settled and public opinion in Constantinople more calm, His Highness would pay him a long visit.

I told His Majesty that the good report he had received of Prince Alexander was fully confirmed by the accounts that had reached me from England, and by the interest which the Queen took in him. I was exceedingly glad to learn, I said, that His Majesty had decided upon receiving His Highness, as it would have been difficult to remove the very unfavourable impression which would have been everywhere caused if the Prince had visited almost every other Sovereign in Europe except his own Suzerain. His Majesty would now have an opportunity of recommending the unfortunate Mussulman population of Bulgaria to the protection of Prince Alexander, and of making an appeal to his sense of justice and humanity in their behalf, to which, I had every reason to believe, from His Highness' character, he would be most ready to respond.

His Majesty replied that he should certainly speak very warmly to the Prince on behalf of the Mahommedans of Bulgaria, of whose cruel and unjust treatment he had the most distressing reports.

Caratheodory Pasha tells me that Prince Alexander has made a most excellent impression upon the Turkish Minister at Rome. Turkhan Bey has telegraphed to the Porte that he was much struck by His Highness' good sense, his straightforwardness, and the just and impartial views he had expressed to him with regard to the future government of Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 100.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 568.)
My Lord,

Therapia, June 30, 1879.

WITH reference to Mr. Vice-Consul Gatheral's despatch of the 7th instant, a copy of which was inclosed in my No. 512 of the 17th, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that having represented to the Minister of Public Works the ruined condition of the bridge over the Sakaria River at Hadji-Hyder, and the obstruction to commerce resulting therefrom, his Excellency promised to at once dispatch the necessary orders for its repair.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 101.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 569.)
My Lord,

Therapia, June 30, 1879.

THE Greek Patriarch of Jerusalem called upon me this morning. His Beatitude and the Patriarch of Alexandria have come here to discuss with the Patriarch of Constantinople, the head of the Orthodox Church, the course to be pursued with reference to the claims of the Greek Church in Turkey to the lands and convents in Roumania, which were submitted to the Congress of Berlin, and formed one of the subjects of deliberation as recorded in the 15th Protocol. His Beatitude informed me that he was

also authorized to represent at the meeting the Patriarch of Antioch, who was too old and infirm to perform the voyage to the capital.

His Beatitude said that the question of these lands, &c., was now under discussion, and that when a decision had been come to it was the intention of the Synod to submit it to the Signatory Powers through their representatives here, and to ask for their support in behalf of the just claims of the Greek Church, which had so long remained unsatisfied.

His Beatitude, in answer to my inquiries as to the state of Jerusalem and Palestine, said that it had, of late, considerably improved owing to the exertions of the present Governor, Réouf Pasha, of whom he spoke in very favourable terms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 102.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 570.)
My Lord,

Therapia, July 1, 1879.

MAHMOUD NEDIM PASHA arrived yesterday morning at Constantinople from the Island of Mitilyne, where he had been residing during the latter part of his exile. He had been invited to come to the capital by the Sultan, without consultation with his Ministers, and his sudden appearance, though it had been for some time suspected that he was to return here, has caused deep mortification to the Grand Vizier, and to others in the Government who have the welfare of the Sultan and of his Empire at heart. The step taken by His Majesty has also produced the most unfavourable impression upon public opinion, as it is generally feared that it is His Majesty's intention to place again in power a man to whom all the disasters which have recently befallen Turkey are mainly attributed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 103.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 572. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Therapia, July 1, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a private and confidential letter from Sir Collingwood Dickson, which may be of interest to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 103.

General Sir C. Dickson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Private.)
Sir,

Philibé, June 28, 1879.

I ARRIVED here yesterday, and this morning Michell introduced me to Aleko Pasha, who had previously sent two members of his Council to call upon me from him. I had a conversation with him and with the Director of Public Works, the finances, and other members of the Provincial Council, on the subject of my mission, and heard both from Aleko himself and the others many complaints about Vitalis and his incapacity and obstructiveness. They said no progress could be made in the organization of the gendarmerie whilst he continued in office, that he did not know his own mind and rescinded next day the nominations made the day before, and that he would not obey the directions of the Governor-General and his Council. Michell has corroborated this statement, and added to it that Vitalis was entirely under the direction of General Stolipine when he visited him at Slivno a few days ago; and he told me that at this moment he wanted to introduce a Russian officer, Major Rostoff,

into the militia as commandant of the permanent battalion of instruction here. Major Rostoff is now here, but has not yet been appointed, and, from what I hear, I do not expect he will obtain any appointment, but Vitalis has presented his name to the Governor-General for confirmation. Rostoff is the man who the Russians (General Stolipine) named to be chief of the staff, but who was supplanted by M. Dumanoir, who now exercises the functions of that post, and who is not very favourably spoken of, though he is, I hear, a man of some ability. However, I shall be able to tell you more about these people in a few days. I told Aleko Pasha that the sooner the organization and formation of the gendarmerie was carried out the better it would be for the province; that it was an imperative necessity this force should be put in working order as soon as possible, and that I hoped the counsel and advice given by us to M. Vitalis would hasten this. De Torey saw Aleko also, but after me, and, from what he tells me, the interview was to the same purport. I feel sure Vitalis is quite unfit for his post, and I fancy so does De Torey, though of course he does not say much; but we have arranged to do all in our power to advise him and put him straight, and we commence work to-morrow morning for this purpose. The Governor-General and directors of the provinces have expressed their willingness to receive such instructions as we may draw up for the guidance of Vitalis, and, on their approval of them, they promise to have them carried out. I can see that the great wish of the governing Powers here is to get rid of Vitalis as a useless incumbrance, and they all told me so openly. I never saw such unanimity displayed as on this occasion. Of course their wish ought not to be complied with, for this reason—that they want to get rid of him to be able to put in the Russo-Bulgarian, Kissakoff, and though none mentioned his name, it is well known such is their desire. Of course this will never do in the future interests of the province, and bad as Vitalis may be, he must be supported to prevent a Russian adherent's appointment. De Torey frankly admitted to me that Vitalis must remain to prevent a Russian coming in, as the French were not prepared to propose any other man in place of Vitalis. If it be absolutely necessary that a Frenchman should fill the post, I wish De Torey could be the man. I mentioned it to him, but he quite resisted such an idea, and said his own military prospects were too good to give them up for such a post where he would be forgotten and lost in his own service, and his future career would be lost thereby. Such being the case, you may depend on our doing our best to put the matter in train and in a good position of being properly carried out.

Michell speaks to me highly of Borthwick, and says he has done much to push on the organization of the gendarmerie, and has given good and sound advice to his chief, Vitalis; and I have a good opinion also of him, and think he will make an excellent second under an energetic and capable chief. Aleko Pasha and the Council have a great regard for Borthwick, and speak highly of him.

I have now given you a general summary of my task here, and hope I shall be able to bring it to a safe conclusion.

No. 104.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 573.) *Therapia, July 1, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches upon matters of interest in their respective districts, which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls at Philippopolis and Bourgas

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 104.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 172.) *Philippopolis, June 27, 1879.*

Sir,

THREE persons of the Jewish persuasion, engaged in the repatriation of their co-religionists, called upon me this evening to give an account of the reception they had met with in the town of Carlovo, and of which I have transmitted a summary to your Excellency by telegraph.

Although there was no loss of life, yet the fact of the Jews (who were seventy-six in number) being besieged and stoned by a large mob at the alleged instigation of the local authorities, or at all events with their connivance (for they refused to afford any assistance), is of grave import, especially when considered in connection with the intended repatriation of Turkish refugees.

My Jewish informants state that only four gendarmes were available, at their urgent request, for their protection, which was consequently inefficient. The principal leader, M. Veneziani, was likewise ill-treated in the affray. He intends to present a Petition to the Governor-General to-morrow, demanding the punishment of the offenders and the indemnification of his co-religionists for the property which they have left at Carlovo, and which they have no desire to claim again in person.

I shall call upon the Governor-General to-morrow to make a strong representation on their behalf, and shall express a hope that his Excellency will, by his energy in the discovery and punishment of the guilty parties, prevent the recurrence of similar incidents, and thus prevent the otherwise possible contingency of finding himself called upon to summon Turkish troops for the purpose of upholding the rights acquired by all Ottoman subjects in Eastern Roumelia under Chapter II of the Organic Statute.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 104.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 178.) *Philippopolis, June 25, 1879.*

Sir,

WITH reference to the latter part of my telegram of last night I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency herewith an extract from the local Greek organ confirming the reports which have reached me of the destruction of Turkish property on a large scale throughout this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 104.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 179.) *Philippopolis, June 25, 1879.*

Sir,

GENERAL VITALIS returned yesterday, and reported this afternoon to the Council the particulars and result of his expedition against Turkish brigands in the district of Bourgas.

It appears that he deviated from his district route in order to concert with General Stolipine at Slivno the military measures which the circumstances, in his opinion, demanded.

General Stolipine detached a squadron of cavalry to cover the flank of General Vitalis while the latter marched towards the "insurgents" with a force of local gymnasts, whom he had, according to his own statement to the Council, selected for that service, "for reasons best known to himself."

The brigands or insurgents (twenty-four in number) fled over the mountains on the approach of the General, who thereupon proceeded to assemble the elders of fifty-eight Turkish villages, to whom he explained the contents of the Firman by which he had been appointed "Commander of the forces of Eastern Roumelia."

General Vitalis informed the Council that the villagers evinced great respect for that document, and promised to bring about the disarmament of the brigands within a week.

After achieving this success the General returned to Slivno, where he became the object of a military ovation. General Stolipine organized a review at which 400 local gymnasts were paraded before General Vitalis, who was so struck by their martial appearance and ardour that he has since declared his conviction that the gymnasts are a body of serious import.

His Excellency also informed the Council that General Stolipine had assured him of his support, notwithstanding the intrigues that were on foot at Constantinople with the object of obtaining his dismissal.

I have learned from other sources that General Vitalis is much elated with this success, and more especially with his cordial and flattering reception at Slivno, particularly since General Stolipine had assured him, in terms most complimentary to his military capacities, that he had never been the object of so great an ovation himself.

In more intimate conversation General Vitalis states that the officers of the militia will not admit of his supervision, and that he will one day march into the Council-room and treat with physical indignity the Governor-General and the Directors by whom he is so ill advised.

I considered it my duty to ask the Governor-General this afternoon whether he was aware that General Vitalis had employed and reviewed a corps which has no legal existence under the Organic Statute, and the exercises of which form indeed a direct breach of the law under which the province is constituted.

His Excellency replied that he was not aware of those proceedings, but that he could not be surprised at any action that General Vitalis might take.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 4 in No. 104.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 182. Most Confidential.)

Philippopolis, June 26, 1879.

Sir,

I FOUND Aleko Pasha very much troubled in his mind yesterday on the subject of General Vitalis and the provincial militia. His Excellency exhibited to me the draft of a long letter to the Grand Vizier, which he was engaged in terminating when I arrived at his country residence.

He told me that it related to the command of the militia, which had unfairly been placed in the hands of a foreigner, to the prejudice of the interests of indigenous officers, whose advancement to other superior posts, such as that of Chief of the Staff, had been cut off by the appointment of M. du Manoir.

He added that both General Vitalis and M. du Manoir were "nothing but drunkards," and that he was powerless to establish order and good government in the province, as he had no force at his back on which he could rely.

I thought it my duty to express strongly my astonishment at the nature of the representations which he contemplated making to the Porte, and to advise him to reconsider such a course.

While acknowledging the demerits of General Vitalis, whose incompetency had been admitted by the French Government, I took upon myself to assure him that neither the Porte nor the English Government could ever listen to such a proposal as that of placing a Bulgarian or Russo-Bulgarian officer in command of the militia, and that, even as regards the more immediately subordinate appointments, grave political objections would prevail against their being filled by native officers, except at some distant period, when the latter shall have shown their fitness in a military sense, and their trustworthiness from a political point of view.

I observed to the Governor-General that the proposal of which he had spoken to me might be interpreted as a desire to restore Colonel Kessiakoff to his former position in the militia, and, although his Excellency repudiated the idea, I have reason to believe that intrigues are on foot with the object of providing that officer with some superior post in the militia.

I therefore told Aleko Pasha that, if such an idea existed in any quarter, he might be sure that its execution would be prevented; and, in reply generally to his reflections on the injustice done to native officers by the appointment of foreigners to the superior commands, I observed that a great deal more than sufficient had already been done to "Bulgarize" the local Government, and that there were Powers which were determined not to permit the conversion of Eastern Roumelia into a "Southern Bulgaria."

The Governor-General took up this observation, and said he could only be guided by Article XXII of the Organic Statute, which compelled him to take into account the

claims of the ethnographical majority to public employment, and that the majority was decidedly Bulgarian.

I replied that the view which he had thus expressed was a misconstruction of the spirit of the Organic Statute, taken in its entirety, and that, as such a misconstruction was producing mischievous results, the subject of the proper interpretation of Article XXII would shortly be brought before the Commission in connection with the nominations which his Excellency had made.

The Governor-General assured me that he would be very glad to have the opinion of the Commission on this subject, as he was personally powerless to resist the construction which had been placed on Article XXII by the Bulgarian majority in this province.

When I left him he appeared to be decidedly under the impression that, after all, it would be best to place the militia under the command of a strict German disciplinarian, providing means could be found for the removal of General Vitalis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 5 in No. 104.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 185. Confidential.)

Philippopolis, June 28, 1879.

Sir,

WHEN I spoke to the Governor-General a few days ago about the Jowish incident, and pointed out that the recurrence of such outrages might necessitate the dispatch of Turkish troops to the Balkans, his Excellency told me emphatically that he knew only too well that the Porte could not move a single man for want of the necessary funds.

I told his Excellency that I thought he might find himself mistaken on that point.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 6 in No. 104.

Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Bourgas, June 25, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that on the 19th instant General Vitalis arrived at Bourgas from Philippopolis. Passing through the town of Aidos he was waited on by many of the headmen of the Turkish villages in that district, with the assurance that the brigands who had killed three Bulgarians (as mentioned in my despatch of the 13th June) had also murdered Mussulmans, and were as much dreaded by them as by the Christians. The headmen also declared that, order once established, and if they were sure of being protected against the consequences of "vendetta," they would themselves arrest the brigands and deliver them up to the authorities. The authorities, moreover, told General Vitalis that some of the brigands had sent in offers of surrender on condition of a free pardon, and these overtures the General instructed them to accept.

General Vitalis having heard nothing of the murders of Turks in the Caza of Achialo (also mentioned in my despatch of June 13th), I called his attention to the facts, and I hear the police officer in question has since been arrested.

The General left Bourgas for Philippopolis on the 21st instant with the intention of reading the Sultan's Firman at Aidos and Karnabad, and counselling the Mussulman and Christian population to moderation and mutual forgiveness of injuries.

The gendarmerie force to the Arrondissement of Bourgas (comprising five sub-districts) is to be composed of 100 men, of whom 150 will be mounted.

Bulgarian patriotic feeling, which a few weeks ago and after the allocution of General Obrutcheff appeared to have calmed down somewhat, has been again excited by the fez and flag incidents at Philippopolis; and even to the town of Bourgas the Bulgars declare that they will never submit to such outward and visible signs of Turkish supremacy in Eastern Roumelia.

T

A Russian writing lately from Slimnia to another Russian General here spoke of the enthusiasm of the Slimniotes for drill and other warlike exercises as increasing every day.

From the Caza of Achialo various petitions, signed by the representatives of Turkish villages, against the appointment of any Greek as Governor, and protesting their great love for their Bulgarian neighbours, have been sent in. All of these, however, have been procured, through fraud or by intimidation, by the notorious Dimitri Bracaloff, who is still President of the Council at Achialo. I have spoken with some of the Turkish villagers who were compelled to sign similar declarations, and I can assure your Excellency that the feeling of the Mussulmans towards the Greeks is at present that of a sympathy arising from the fact that both of these races have been almost equally oppressed by the ruling Bulgarian element and by the Bulgarian villagers, their neighbours.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BROPHY.

No. 105.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 395. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 3, 1879.*

IN the Circular despatch of M. de Giers of the 25th ultimo, communicated to your Lordship by Count Schouvaloff, and inclosed to me in copy in your despatch No. 412, it is stated that the Russian Government had reason to believe the Austro-Hungarian Government to adhere to the proposal, that the Montenegrin Frontier Delimitation Commission should continue its work in the absence of the Turkish members who had refused to attend it.

I showed Baron Orczy the Circular, and asked whether the Imperial Government had expressed itself in the manner indicated, which seemed to me to be at variance with what I understood to be Count Andrassy's views.

His Excellency said that the statement was quite incorrect; for Count Andrassy had considered it probable that the assistance of the Turkish Delegates might be indispensable in some of the work to be performed by the Commission, and he had, therefore, abstained from instructing the Austro-Hungarian Commissioner in the sense desired by the Russian Government, although he continued to maintain that the Porte ought to be bound by the agreement that had been come to for accepting as final the decisions of a majority.

M. de Giers' despatch of the 25th of May, though given to your Lordship as a Circular, appears to vary greatly in form from the communication made to the Austrian Government upon the same subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 106.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 396.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 3, 1879.*

I HAVE inquired into the truth of the statements lately made in the newspapers of an intention on the part of the Austro-Hungarian Government to apply the General Tariff of the Monarchy to Bosnia and the Herzegovina after the 1st January next.

I was told that all at present decided is to establish the customs-houses along the frontiers of those provinces, and to regularize their administration, so that the revenues derived from them may be exclusively devoted to local purposes according to the agreement come to with the Porte.

In answer to my inquiry, whether it was proposed to levy the duties under the Austro-Hungarian instead of the Turkish Tariff, I was told that no such decision had been come to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 107.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 398. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 3, 1879.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 30th ultimo No. 83, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that before I received it the German Ambassador had mentioned to Count Andrassy the intention of Her Majesty's Government to request him to convey a message to the Roumanian Government on the subject of religious liberty in the Principality on behalf of the Powers which had not yet formally recognized its independence.

Baron Orczy told me to-day that Count Andrassy had not learned the probability of such an application being made to him with much satisfaction, as he feared that, if he took the step desired, and it should not lead to a satisfactory result, the refusal of the Roumanian Government to act in the manner proposed might render it necessary for him, by way of protest, to exhibit the dissatisfaction of the Imperial Government in some way that he would wish to avoid.

It is evident that the interest felt by the Austro-Hungarian Government in the Roumanian Jews is very subordinate to their wish to acquire the goodwill of the Government and people of the Principality, and, as they are aware that much of the sympathy that used to be felt for the Western Powers, and for France in particular, has already been diverted towards Austria by the difference in the policy that has been followed on this question, there may be an unwillingness to sacrifice anything of the advantage that has been gained.

I learned from Baron Orczy that immediately on being spoken to by Prince Reuss Count Andrassy telegraphed to Bucharest, urging the Roumanian Government in the most pressing terms at once to adopt the measures calculated to satisfy the other Powers, and intimating that a hesitation to do so would, in all probability, be followed by the adoption of a collective action which they would do well to avoid.

All my colleagues, including the Italian Chargé d'Affaires, have been instructed to associate themselves with me in the application to be made to the Austrian Government, and as soon as I receive your Lordship's definitive instructions we will meet and concert upon it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 108.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 404.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 4, 1879.*

COUNT ANDRASSY has spoken to me about the request which he learnt from Prince Reuss was about to be made to him to convey an intimation to the Roumanian Government on the subject of religious liberty in the Principality on behalf of the British, French, German, and Italian Governments.

He said that, until he received an answer to the communication he had already addressed to Bucharest, it would be impossible for him to accept the duty which he was to be asked to undertake.

In reply to my remark, that he was only asked to deliver a message from the four Powers to the Roumanian Government as a means of avoiding a more formal action, he replied that this might technically be so; but that he would, in fact, be assuming a position that, in case of a refusal by the Roumanian Government, might oblige him to go further, and force him to associate himself with the four Powers in an action of which he did not entirely approve, and the Principality would thus be thrown into the arms of Russia as the only country which abstained from exacting a pressure upon it.

His Excellency did not consider that the XLIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin ought to be textually inserted in the Constitution, as it seemed to give foreign Jews rights beyond what could be reasonably expected to be included in an Organic Statute of that nature.

I represented that the text of the Article contained exactly what the Powers were entitled to require from the Roumanian Government as the condition of the recogni-

tion of their independence; but Count Andrassy's language was so resolute that, if he were now to be asked to address himself to the Roumanian Government in the manner proposed, I should have no expectation of his consenting to do so.

I have, &c.
(For Sir H. Elliot),
(Signed) FRED. WELLESLEY

No. 109.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 408.)
Vienna, July 5, 1879.

My Lord,

COUNT ANDRASSY has informed the Russian Ambassador that he will not intimate to the Austrian Commissioner on the Montenegrin Frontier Commission that the work should be proceeded with during the abstention of the Turkish Commissioners, but that he will not object to that course being followed if the majority of the Commissioners believe that it can be done without inconvenience.

He says that he does not concur in the opinion expressed by your Lordship to Count Károlyi in favour of a new survey, which would lead to indefinite delay; but he would not object to one being made at the points where the express words of the Treaty cannot be reconciled with the map.

I said that your Lordship had not advocated a new general survey, but only one of the particular localities in dispute, and the divergence between you was, therefore, not very great.

He is strongly opposed to the extension of the frontier desired by the Montenegrins in the neighbourhood of Podgoritza, but he maintains that the line across the Lake of Scutari should be drawn according to the undoubted intention of the Plenipotentiaries at Berlin, even if the island spoken of as Gorica-Topal was not correctly designated.

The Treaty had distinctly stated that certain tribes were to be left within the limits of Albania, and if it should appear that, by a strict adherence to the line traced on the Austrian map, these would be excluded or cut in two, it would, he says, be proper to have a survey made and the frontier drawn so as to comply with that condition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 110.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 410.)
Vienna, July 5, 1879.

My Lord,

UPON receiving your Lordship's telegram yesterday I informed my colleagues that I was directed to concert with them about requesting Count Andrassy to inform the Roumelian Government that the four Powers would agree to the formal recognition of the independence of the Principality, if the text of the XLIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin was introduced into the Constitution.

When we met this morning to discuss the question, we were all of opinion that it would not be advisable at this moment to ask Count Andrassy to take a step which his language to me made it certain that he would decline, and that we should therefore wait till an answer had been received to the communication made by the Austrian Minister to the Roumanian Government.

Prince Reuss, who had informed his Government of Count Andrassy having spoken to him much as he did to me, was already authorized to delay doing anything till the effect produced by Count Andrassy's advice at Bucharest was ascertained.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 111.

Sir J. Stokes to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 5. Danube.)
Chatham, July 7, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE had the honour to receive communication of the correspondence relative to the repayment of the advances made to the European Commission of the Danube by the Porte, and have carefully examined Protocol 329 of the Danube Commission, in which are set forth the arguments of the Commissioners for and against the proposal to repay the Porte at once by means of a loan to be raised for the purpose.

The arguments of the Russian Commissioner and of the others who oppose the proposal are very similar to those which I had the honour to submit to your Lordship in my No. 7, Danube, of the 8th May and No. 14 of the 26th December of last year. I must, however, admit that the readiness of the Porte to discount the amount due during the course of years from 1883 onwards till the debt should be liquidated makes some arrangement for immediate repayment more desirable in the interests of the navigation than it appeared to me when I last reported on this subject.

Moreover, the great addition made last year to the reserve fund of the Commission renders more feasible any combination for the proposed repayment to the Porte whilst keeping in hand a sufficient sum for future works, as well as for ensuring the repayment of the Bischoffsheim Loan without coming upon the Government guarantees.

The view of the Austro-Hungarian Government communicated by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna on the 27th May, that the reimbursement should not be made at once by a single payment, can doubtless be sustained from considerations similar to those formerly advanced by me; but if the Austro-Hungarian Government desire to render a service to the Porte, they may be induced to do so by the further consideration that the navigation also will benefit from the method proposed. If the repayment is not made at once by a single payment, the advantage to be gained by discounting the future payments will be in a measure lost.

The uncertainty which still prevails as to the term for which the European Commission of the Danube will continue in existence no doubt affects to a great extent the discussion of this question. If the prolongation of the Commission's powers for another twenty or twenty-five years from 1883 were certain, neither the Porte nor those Commissioners who support the Turkish claim would so earnestly press for the immediate repayment of the Ottoman advances, because under the present Commission the eventual repayment of the debt would be ensured. It is the uncertainty as to the manner in which the Riverain Commission, if resuscitated in 1883, would fulfil the engagements of the European Commission under the Convention of the 2nd November, 1869, which gives rise to the present uneasiness, and desire to see the debt repaid.

The refusal of the German Commissioner to assent to any arrangement which should include a new loan is rightly, I believe, taken by Colonel Siborne to indicate that Germany will aid Russia in opposing the prolongation of the European Commission's powers.

As long as this question of the duration of the Commission is doubtful, I do not think that the Commissioners will be able to agree upon the mode of repaying the Porte its advances; though the proposition of the Turkish Delegate recorded at the end of Protocol No. 329 appears to be acceptable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. STOKES.

No. 112.

Carathéodory Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, July 8.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 6 Juillet*, 1879.

SON Altesse le Prince de Battenberg est arrivé hier dans l'après-midi à Constantinople, et, après avoir été reçu par Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, est reparti pour Varna.

Son Firman d'Investiture lui sera envoyé incessamment.

No. 113.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 8, 5·45 A.M.)

(No. 14.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, July 7*, 1879.

LISTS of [? scrutiny of] militia and gendarmerie were signed to-day, with [? two] or three reservations grounded on the personal character of the officers.

Schmidt's confirmation has been received from the Porte.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 114.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 8, 6 A.M.)

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, July 7*, 1879.

COMMISSION on the Jewish affair has returned, and is preparing a Report.

I hear that the Jewish organizer of the repatriation will be alone blamed, and that the action of the authorities will be praised. The rioters [? will] also be excused, on the ground that they had recognized property which [? had] been taken by Turks, and that, contrary to arrangement, compromised Jews had been brought back.

German Commissioner is taking the matter up strongly.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 115.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Palgrave.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 8*, 1879, 3·50 P.M.

THE letter accrediting you as Her Majesty's Agent to the Prince of Bulgaria was sent on the 20th June.

If you have not received it by the time of Prince Alexander's arrival, you may present yourself as Agent accredited to the Prince, and state our regret that letter has accidentally been delayed.

No. 116.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Palgrave.

(No. 93.) *Foreign Office, July 8*, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received your telegram of the 7th instant, stating that you had not yet received the letter to Prince Alexander notifying to His Highness your appointment as Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General in Bulgaria.

I have informed you to-day by telegraph that the letter in question was forwarded to you on the 20th June, but that if it should not have reached you by the time that Prince Alexander arrives at Tirnovo you may present yourself as the British Agent accredited to the Prince, and express to His Highness the regret of Her Majesty's

Government that the official letter notifying your appointment in the above capacity should have apparently been delayed in its transmission by the post.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 117.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 8, 11·30 P.M.)

(No. 530.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 8*, 1879.

PORTE has communicated to me following telegram from its Commissioner for the Montenegrin frontier delimitation, dated Scutari, July 3, and would be glad to know whether your Lordship will instruct the English Commission to resume its work:—

"Italian Commissioner has requested a meeting of the Commission to-day, and has proposed to trace the line fixing definitively only at the points on which the parties interested agree with the majority. At contested points provisional marks will be placed, the necessary embankments of earth being raised to show the distinction between the line of the majority and that of each of the interested parties. The contested points will then be submitted to the examination of the Signatory Powers. We have accepted, together with France and Italy; the others having refused, the proposition has been rejected."

No. 118.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 8, 11·45 P.M.)

(No. 531.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 8*, 1879.

AMERICAN Minister has called upon Porte to allow the "Quinnipiac," a corvette of six guns, to go into the Black Sea.

Porte refuses its permission, taking its stand upon the Treaty of Paris and the difficulties to which it might give rise with Russia.

American Minister rejects arguments by stating that America is no party to the Treaty of Paris, in respect to which Porte asserts its right over the Black Sea as one of the territorial Powers, and maintains it cannot be entered by large foreign war-vessels without its permission.

American Minister has agreed to consider the objections till Monday, but Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs is resolved not to give way in case of further pressure.

No. 119.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 92. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, June 26*, 1879.

IN April last I was the means of an understanding being come to between the Montenegrin Government and Kiamil Pasha regarding the repatriation of the Christians who had fled during the late war from the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar, the Turkish authorities engaging that those who returned, if they came unarmed, should be secure from molestation.

M. Radonich, the Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs, has now forwarded to me the copy of a petition addressed by the Novi-Bazar refugees to Prince Nicholas, in which they complain that the engagement of the Turkish authorities has not been observed, and that they are treated by them and the Mahommedan inhabitants with the greatest cruelty, so that they will probably once more have to fly for refuge to Montenegro.

Voïvoda Radonich further conveys to me the request of Prince Nicholas, that I

should take steps to have these facts brought to the knowledge of the Turkish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 120.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July 9.*)

(No. 93. Political.)
Scutari, June 26, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 92, Political, of this day's date, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of M. Radonich's letter, and of the complaint addressed by the Novi-Bazar Christian refugees to Prince Nicholas.

The number of those for whom I had been requested to obtain permission to re-enter Ottoman territory was stated as 9,000, but I have no information of how many complied with the conditions laid down by Kiamil Pasha, nor have I now any positive data supporting the complaint made to the Prince.

Although it is possible that the Montenegrin Government, in coming forward as a kind of protector of the Rayahs on its frontiers, may be anxious to alarm the Porte into a speedy acceptance of a proposal for an arrangement of the new boundary near Goussinié-Plava, which, I understand, M. Yonine, the Russian Minister-Resident in Montenegro, has proceeded from Livadia to Constantinople to press in the proper quarter, still it cannot be denied that the condition of the Christians, not only in the district of Novi-Bazar, but also in those of Ipek, Jacova, and Goussinié, as long as the Turkish Government abstains from resserting its authority, will continue most precarious.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 120.

M. Radonich to Consul Kirby Green.

Cettigne, le $\frac{16}{24}$ Juin, 1879.

(Extrait.)

JE me vois encore obligé de venir vous importuner au sujet des malheureux réfugiés du Sandjak de Novi-Bazar, qui tout dernièrement, et grâce à votre intervention auprès des autorités Ottomanes, reçurent l'autorisation de regagner leurs foyers avec l'obligation de déposer leurs armes soit à la frontière soit entre les mains des autorités Turques.

Cette obligation une fois acceptée, on leur garantissait une certaine sécurité et la promesse qu'ils ne seront nullement molestés pour leur conduite pendant la dernière guerre. Notre Gouvernement, espérant que ces promesses ne resteront pas vaines, réussit, après beaucoup de difficulté il est vrai, à persuader ces malheureux à retourner chez eux, et c'est ce qu'ils firent pendant le courant du mois d'Avril dernier, en laissant les armes entre les mains de nos autorités frontières.

Malheureusement nous avons lieu de constater encore une fois de plus quelle foi on peut ajouter aux promesses Turques; car nous venons d'apprendre que ces réfugiés sont sujet aujourd'hui à toute espèce de vexations et d'arbitraire, non seulement de la part des habitants Musulmans mais de l'autorité elle-même.

Il me serait difficile, mon cher Mr. Green, de vous peindre l'état désolant et les conditions peu enviables dans lesquelles se trouvent ces malheureux. La plainte ci-jointe adressée par eux à son Altesse parle assez d'elle-même pour m'en dispenser. J'ajouterai seulement que d'après informations par autre voie elle est loin d'être exagérée.

Son Altesse, engagée moralement vis-à-vis de cette population et ne sachant comment s'intéresser à son sort, nos relations avec la Turquie étant malheureusement toujours au point que vous connaissez, me charge de recourir à votre obligeante intervention, et vous prie dans l'intérêt de l'humanité d'user en leur faveur de votre influence auprès de qui de droit.

Inclosure 2 in No. 120.

Complaint of Refugées from the Sândjak of Novi-Bazar to the Prince of Montenegro, as to the conduct of the Muhammedans and Turkish Authorities.

SUR les conseils paternels de votre Altesse nous avons quitté le Monténégro pour regagner nos foyers et avons déposé les armés entre les mains de vos autorités à la frontière.

Votre Altesse a bien voulue nous promettre alors qu'en nous soumettant à cette exigence nous ne serions pas exposé à notre retour aux mauvais traitements des autorités Turques, et qu'elles nous prêteraient au contraire appui contre les habitants Musulmans, en cas de besoin. Malheureusement il n'en est pas ainsi, et nous nous trouvons exposé aux plus affreux traitements de ces derniers, qui, outre toute espèce de violence, commencent à rechercher ceux qui parmi nous se sont distingués pendant la dernière guerre et les menacent de mort. Nous avons à plusieurs reprises porté plainte devant les autorités, mais celles-ci, loin de faire droit à nos supplications, ne font que les encourager dans leurs mauvais desseins. Aussi nous nous voyons dans la triste nécessité de venir implorer la haute protection de votre Altesse, car il nous est impossible de continuer à vivre dans de pareils conditions.

No. 121.

Captain Sale to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July 9.*)

(No. 12.)
Scutari, Albania, June 28, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report having sent to your Lordship, on the 21st instant, a telegram of which the following is the substance:—

"Up to the present time, no instructions have come to hand with reference to the interruption to the work of the Boundary Commission for Montenegro.

"For nearly a month the Commission have been unemployed, each member awaiting instructions.

"May I be favoured with a telegram to inform me if I may expect to receive instructions or not in this matter.

"Some of the Commissioners desire that the matter may be brought forward for discussion on the 26th instant; and if I might receive an answer from your Lordship before that date, it would facilitate a decision being arrived at."

Since the dispatch of the above message I have received your Lordship's telegrams of the 24th and 26th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE, *Captain, R.E.,*
Commissioner.

No. 122.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July 9.*)

(No. 27. Political.)
Salonica, June 28, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship copy of my despatch of this date to Sir Henry Layard reporting that the European Commission which has been appointed for the demarcation of the Bulgarian frontiers is expected to arrive at Kustendil on the 1st proximo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 122.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, June* 28, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the Governor-General of Salonica has received a telegram of the 25th instant from Tahir Pasha, the Ottoman member of the European Commission for the demarcation of the Bulgarian frontiers, stating that the Commission hoped to arrive at Kustendil on the 1st proximo, and thence would proceed to Egri-Palanka and Tchadir-Tepé, in district of Djuma, and requesting his Excellency to direct the local authorities to assist and facilitate the operations of the Commission.

The Commander-in-chief, Safvet Pasha, has also received a similar telegraphic request from Tahir Pasha; and he told me that he hoped the presence of the European Commission at Djuma will enable him to occupy that place militarily without obstruction from the Bulgarians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 123.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 51. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, June* 30, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Photiades Pasha, Governor-General of Crete, returned to his post on the 23rd instant, after a month's absence at Constantinople. A few days after his Excellency's arrival he published a proclamation, stating that the Imperial Government had maturely considered the demands formulated by the last Cretan General Assembly, and had approved nearly all of them, His Majesty the Sultan having subsequently given them the requisite sanction.

As I have already had the honour to report to your Lordship the nature of these demands, when they were put forward by the Assembly in its sittings early in the year, it will suffice that I should enumerate the most important of them.

These comprise:—

1. The new judicial organization which provides for the presence in the principal law courts of a Procureur, and requires every President of a court of law to be furnished with a diploma or to pass an examination before a competent local Commission. As, however, the courts of law are constituted on the vicious principle of popular election there is little hope of any radical improvement in their practice, though the presence of a better class of Presidents will tend to prevent gross abuses.

2. The proposal made by the Assembly for compounding the claims of the merchants against an indebted peasantry has also been sanctioned. These claims are a legacy of the insurrection of 1866-68, and the local Government, after some impotent attempts at effecting a settlement, ended by shirking the duty from a fear of creating general discontent. The arrangement proposed by the Assembly is naturally very favourable to the peasantry, who consequently regard its approval by the Porte with the greatest satisfaction. No doubt some injustice has been done to many respectable merchants, but it was absolutely necessary to bring to a solution a question which had been standing in the way for ten years, the Government having never had the courage to incur the odium which its settlement on strictly legal principles would have infallibly excited.

3. In conformity with the wish of the Assembly the salaries of the Mahommedan Judges (cadis) will no longer be paid by the local Treasury, but will be a charge on the Central Government.

4. The half of the customs receipts have been accorded to meet the local expenditure for a term of one year. This cannot be regarded as a new claim put forward by the Assembly, as it was a concession included in the arrangement come to with the Porte last October. Although the Porte limits the grant to one year, no one doubts that, in case of necessity, it will be renewed in subsequent years.

5. The Porte refuses to hand over to the local budget the tithes of certain villages

devoted to the keeping up of pious foundations. It had been expressly stipulated in the arrangement of the 15th October that these tithes should not be diverted from their original uses, and therefore the Assembly was transgressing its rights in making this particular demand.

6. A general amnesty had, in the same arrangement of last October, been proclaimed by the Porte. Some restriction has now been placed on the application of this boon, by allowing individuals to bring in claims for indemnity for property damaged or stolen during last year's insurrection. By this limitation a wide door is opened for litigation, and the Courts will be besieged with claims for compensation. While the refusal to forfeit the Vacouf tithes has caused no appreciable discontent, the allowing of claims for indemnity has produced wide dissatisfaction amongst the Christians, which may be taken to indicate the extent to which they had spoiled their enemies. The Christians have for the most part retained the live stock of which they had plundered the Mussulmans, who, cooped up as they were in the towns, had been obliged to sell or otherwise dispose of the booty that fell into their hands during their frequent raids. As what has been sold or slaughtered can no longer be recovered, the Christians consider that they are thus unfairly dealt with in this matter. Experience will probably show, however, that in the majority of cases they will succeed in evading the claims made against them.

The rest of the demands of the Assembly having been sanctioned, the Proclamation of the Governor-General has caused a lively satisfaction. The people seem convinced that the Porte is sincerely desirous of respecting the arrangement come to with its Cretan subjects in October 1878, nor can they fail to see that the autonomy granted them is no empty name.

Photiades Pasha is now filling up vacancies in the judicial and other Departments with such material as he can dispose of, which it must be owned is wanting in many essential qualities. The funds, moreover, now placed at his disposal by the custom-house will at length give his Excellency an opportunity of placing the gendarmerie on a more efficient footing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 124.

Mr. Lawrence to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 175.)
My Lord, *Athens, July* 3, 1879.

M. DELYANNI read to me yesterday a telegram which he had received from the Demarch of Lamia, stating that on the 1st instant 300 Ottoman soldiers, in pursuit of a flock of sheep which had been feeding on Turkish territory, crossed the frontier of Thessaly at a place called Armeniades, appropriated the flock, consisting of 250 sheep, and carried off three shepherds as prisoners. A detachment of Greek soldiers went to the rescue, but only arrived in time to exchange a few shots with the Turks, whom they refrained from pursuing across the frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. LAWRENCE.

No. 125.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 9, 1 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tirnova, July* 8, 1879.

PRINCE arrived at 4 in the afternoon in Bulgarian uniform; very hearty reception, general effect good. Corps Diplomatique will be received to-morrow; Secretary of Prince inquired for my letters of credence, the want of which causes some difficulty. Please send credentials as soon as possible in the usual form.

No. 126.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 9, 1·40 A.M.)

Rome, July 8, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

ITALIAN Chargé d'Affaires at Vienna telegraphs that, at a meeting of the Representatives of the Powers on Roumanian question, the German Ambassador spoke of employing menace, and even force, if Roumanian Government did not accept proposal now made.

Secretary-General asks me to state that Italian Government, in agreeing to join other Powers in communication to Roumania through the Austrian Cabinet, did not contemplate coercion of any kind, which indeed seemed to be precluded by the terms of your Lordship's proposal, and that if it is used they cannot be a party to it.

No. 127.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 9, 3 P.M.)

(No. 532.)

Therapia, July 9, 1879, 11·30 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING sent to Consul-General Michell to-day:—

"German Ambassador informs me that he has instructed German Commissioner to make the strongest remonstrances against manner in which case of persecution of Jews at Carlovo is being dealt with, and he hopes that you will join him in doing so."

No. 128.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 146.)

Foreign Office, July 9, 1879, 5·40 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

IT seems hardly any use for Montenegrin Commission to go on, unless the Porte will consent to decision by majority as has been done elsewhere. Without some such agreement the Italian proposal is useless, because, in the present temper of Russians as to this Commission, all material portions of the frontier will be contested. We cannot effect any delimitation worth the trouble, unless the majority principle is conceded.

No. 129.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 147.)

Foreign Office, July 9, 1879, 6·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

INFORM Captain Trotter that Captain Everett, of the 33rd Regiment, is appointed British Vice-Consul at Erzeroum, and instruct him to procure his recognition by the local authorities. He may employ him as he thinks most advantageous.

He leaves for his post this week.

No. 130.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 148.)

Foreign Office, July 9, 1879, 6·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your despatch No. 1321 of last year, and to the recent appointment of Captain Swaine as Military Attaché at Constantinople, the War Office inquire whether the retention of Sir C. Dickson's services at that place is necessary. The Treasury only sanctioned his employment during continuance of the war.

No. 131.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 878.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 9, 1879.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 530 of the 8th instant relative to a proposal which has been made by the Italian member of the Montenegrin Frontier Commission, to the effect that the Commission should proceed with the tracing of the boundary line, fixing definitively those portions only in which the parties immediately interested were in agreement with the majority of the other Commissioners, and at contested points making provisional marks to show the several lines advocated by the majority and each of the interested parties respectively. These latter portions of the frontier line might then be submitted for examination and decision by the Signatory Powers.

I have informed you in reply that it seems useless for the Commission to continue its operations unless the Porte will consent to disputed questions being decided by the vote of the majority, as has been done in the case of other Commissions of the same kind. Without some agreement of this nature the proposal of the Italian Commissioner will be of no practical advantage, for, in the present disposition of the Russian Government with regard to this frontier, all the material portions of the line will be contested.

Unless, therefore, the principle of decision by the majority is conceded, the Commission will be unable to attain any results at all commensurate with the labour that will be entailed.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 132.

General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 10.)

(No. 34.)

My Lord,

Therapia, July 3, 1879.

I HAVE the honour, in continuation of my despatch No. 33, to inform you that the Verbitza Pass is very ill adapted for important operations. At the point where it first touches on the watershed it is wooded on both sides, from the summits down to the valley whence the road ascends. The summits could not, therefore, be made useful for defence, since the defender could in no case clear away the woods below the line of the military crest, as they must belong to the Bulgarians.

From this point in the Pass the watershed turns southward, followed by the road for about 2 miles, when it again bends eastward.

In this new eastward line the summits are bare, and the position in itself is good, but it is commanded by the height on the Bulgarian side of the valley. Neither of these positions, therefore, is favourable for defence; and, with the view of giving them the only possible improvement they admit of, I proposed, as it was doubtful which a defender might choose to rely on, to give the military crest in both cases. This was negatived, and, I know not why, the watershed retained throughout, except the intervening piece of road which the majority decided should belong entirely to Eastern Roumelia, a decision which has no military significance.

The Commission then separated, according to the plan described in my despatch No. 33.

The Dobral Pass (visited by the eastern portion of the Commission on the 24th) would be well defended by occupying a position at its southern extremity, if that position were secured from being turned by a path some 3 miles to the right. Proceeding onward to the watershed it was found that, though the summits there are thickly wooded, there is a flat space of valley 700 or 800 yards wide, where the Turks had a camp and battery during the war, which is open. The commanding summits between the Pass and the path on the right are wooded to near the top, where they rest on rocky precipices. Nothing but wood fighting would be possible except in the narrow space in the valley, and the summits are of small value for defence. Altogether, the Pass is very unsatisfactory for operations on any considerable scale, whether of attack or defence.

The Commissioners moved through the Dobral Pass with the intention of traversing from thence several of the smaller passes to the eastward of it, on their way to Cengei. But it was seen from the north side that all the watershed was covered for

many miles on both sides of the Dobral Pass with dense forests. It would have been waste of time, therefore, to visit Passes which, unimportant in themselves, could not have been rendered more defensible by any addition which it was in the power of the Commission to make.

On the 27th June the Commissioners repaired to the point on the Deli-Kameik, 2½ kilom. above Cengei, at which the Treaty prescribes that the frontier-line must pass that stream, and observed the ground beyond, up which the line must pass to join the crest.

They then proceeded, by difficult paths, over hills covered with dense forests, to Kemhalik, a village mentioned in the Treaty, but which, instead of being at the point where it appears on the Austrian map, is five or six miles north-east of that point, and cannot, therefore, have the influence that was intended on the course of the frontier.

On the 28th June they passed (again through dense forests) by a path above Belibe, a village mentioned in the Treaty, and which is the same as Beblova (erroneously placed as a different village on the Austrian map) to Sudzuluk, near which the frontier-line must quit the thalweg of the stream up which it passes from the Black Sea on its way to the before-mentioned point on the Deli-Kameik. It seems probable that by following streams observed in this district and laid down in the Russian map the frontier-line may be traced here along natural boundaries, and consistently with the terms of the Treaty, from the thalweg near Zudzuluk, to the point above Cengei on the Deli-Kameik.

The Commissioners having thus obtained the information required for subsequently fixing the remainder of the frontier east of the point where the separation of the Commission on the 22nd June took place, proceeded to Varna and embarked there for the Bosphorus, where they arrived this day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 133.

Carathéodory Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, July 10.)

Constantinople, le 8 Juillet, 1879.

(Télégraphique.)

AUX termes de l'Article XI du Traité de Berlin, toutes les forteresses en Bulgarie doivent être rasées aux frais de cette Principauté dans un délai d'un an au plus tard, le Gouvernement local devant prendre immédiatement les mesures nécessaires à cet effet.

Ainsi qu'il est à votre connaissance, ce délai est à la veille d'expirer: et, à l'exception de quelques démolitions partielles, aucune disposition n'a été prise jusqu'à ce moment pour l'exécution de cette stipulation formelle du Traité. Les termes absolus et impératifs dans lesquels cette décision du Congrès a été consignée dans le Traité de Berlin démontre assez l'importance que les Puissances Signataires y ont attachée.

D'autre part, les raisons graves qui ont motivé cette stipulation subsiste aujourd'hui dans toute leur force et vigueur. Il y a donc un intérêt majeur à ce que l'Article XI reçoive son exécution sans plus de retard; ou sa double qualité de signataire du Traité et de Cour Suzeraine de la Principauté Bulgare, la Sublime Porte ne peut qu'y insister. Veuillez conséquemment appeler l'attention du Gouvernement près duquel vous êtes accrédité sur la nécessité d'aviser promptement aux mesures nécessaires pour assurer la démolition des forteresses dont il s'agit. Vous aurez soin de faire valoir combien il serait injuste qu'en même temps que la Sublime Porte est sollicitée d'exécuter sans retard toutes les clauses du Traité de Berlin, l'exécution d'une stipulation aussi essentielle que celle de la démolition des forteresses soit par contre indûment différée.

No. 134.

Mr. Lawrence to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 10.)

Athens, July 9, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

THE Greek Chambers are convoked for the 17th instant for an extraordinary session.

No. 135.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 10.)

Tirnovo, July 9, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

ALL the Agents were received by the Prince this morning. His Highness spoke to me with extreme gratitude of Her Majesty's goodness to him at Balmoral and of your entertainment in town. Afterwards *Te Deum* in Cathedral; then short speech and the Constitution (*sic*) at House of Representatives; acclamation (*sic*), salute, &c. Assembly dissolved.

No. 136.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 10.)

Tirnovo, July 9, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE received your Lordship's telegram of 8th relating to the Agency and letters of credence with most respectful gratitude; the letter itself arrived this noon. I had been presented in the morning, and had given explanation according to telegram. It has been determined that all the letters of credence will be presented on arrival at Sophia.

No. 137.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 10.)

Philippopolis, July 9, 1879.

(No. 16.)
(Telegraphic.)

CONTRIBUTION levied by Russians on Kotel (*sic*) is for cost of militia barracks constructed by them.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 138.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 10, 5·10 P.M.)

Philippopolis, July 9, 1879.

(No. 17.)
(Telegraphic.)

AT Council to-day Report of Commission on the Jewish affair was not considered sufficient or satisfactory, and was returned with orders to make a more ample investigation and [? take] evidence of Jews.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 139.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 10, 5 P.M.)

(No. 104.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, July* 10, 1879.

GIERS assures me that discrepancy between Turkish and Russian maps of frontier near Karaourgan has been arranged.

No. 140.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 10, 5·5 P.M.)

(No. 105.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, July* 10, 1879.

GIERS will stop Stolipine's levy of imposts at Kotel Kazar.

No. 141.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 10, 6·30 P.M.)

(No. 106.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, July* 10, 1879, 2 P.M.

GIERS will make inquiries about the alleged issue of cartridges to gymnastic societies at Slivno, reported by Mr. Mitchell.

No. 142.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 149.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 10, 1879, 4·35 P.M.

YOURS 531.

The Porte should clearly understand that, if it permits American ships of war to pass the Straits, it will place in great peril its right to exclude the ships of any other nation.

No. 143.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 10, 5 P.M.)

(No. 533.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July* 10, 1879, 2·26 P.M.

FOLLOWING sent to Mr. Gould to-day:—

"With reference to your telegram of the 5th instant, Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs says that a Convention can be concluded between Porte and the Principality, and the negotiations for it would probably occupy much time; he asks of Servia to recognize at once a Turkish Consul at Nisch, where Porte has important interests, and where Mussulman population is very numerous."

Would your Lordship be disposed to support Turkish request, which appears to me to be reasonable, and, considering circumstances, should be granted?

No. 144.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 10, 5·15 P.M.)

(No. 534.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July* 10, 1879, 2·50 P.M.

FOLLOWING received from Her Majesty's Consul at Salonica:—

"Official telegram received here this morning from Governor of Seres states that Djuma was occupied yesterday by the Ottoman troops under the command of Suliman Pasha. Circassians who were removed by Porte from Katerina to Syra last year are coming: sixty of them arrived here by yesterday's steamer from Constantinople."

No. 145.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 10, 5·30 P.M.)

(No. 118.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July* 10, 1879, 3 P.M.

WITH reference to Sir A. Paget's telegram repeated in your telegram No. 90, Italian Chargé d'Affaires has attached undue importance to a casual remark of the German Ambassador, who, upon an observation being [? made] upon the slight means existing of obliging the Roumanians to act as required, alluded to possibility of a blockade of Danube, but I looked upon it merely as a loose [group wrong] remark, and certainly not as a serious suggestion.

No. 146.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 881.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 10, 1879.

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatch No. 523 of the 20th ultimo, and in reply I have to state that the steps you have taken to call the attention of the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs to the unsatisfactory condition of the district of Ada-Bazar, caused by the presence there of a large number of immigrant Circassians, have met with the approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 147.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 882.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 10, 1879.

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have approved the language you have used to the Armenian Patriarch, Archbishop Narses, as reported in your Excellency's despatch No. 535 of the 21st ultimo, and the warning you have conveyed to him against taking part in intrigues which tend to undermine the authority of the Sultan in the Turkish provinces in Asia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 148.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 883.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 10, 1879.

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have learned with great satisfaction from the circumstances related in your despatch No. 524 of the 21st ultimo, that the representations you have made to the Porte on different occasions with regard to the misconduct of Turkish officials and to maladministration in the provinces has not been entirely unproductive of good results.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 149.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 885.) *Foreign Office, July* 10, 1879.

Sir,

THE delay of the Porte in carrying into execution any of those reforms in the Asiatic provinces of the Turkish Empire which it has pledged itself shall be introduced there is a matter which causes great regret to Her Majesty's Government; and I have to state to your Excellency that they entirely approve the steps you have taken, as reported in your despatch No. 536 of the 23rd ultimo, to call the attention of the Sultan's Ministers to the neglect of their obligations in this respect.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 150.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 897.) *Foreign Office, July* 10, 1879.

Sir,

THE demand made by the American Minister upon the Porte, reported in your Excellency's telegram of the 8th instant, to grant permission to an American corvette to enter the Black Sea, involves considerations of great importance to Ottoman interests.

Your Excellency should make it clearly understood by the Porte that if it permits the passage of the Bosphorus by ships of war under the flag of the United States, it will gravely compromise the right it now possesses under Treaty to exclude the ships of war of other nations.

Your Excellency reports that, in refusing a passage through the Straits to the Black Sea to the American corvette "Quinnebaug," the Porte takes its stand upon the Treaty of Paris.

I have to remind your Excellency that the Black Sea clauses of the Treaty of Paris were abrogated by Article I of the Treaty of London, signed on the 13th March, 1871, and were replaced by Article II of that Treaty, which stipulated that the "principle of the closing of the Straits of the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus, such as it has been established by the Separate Convention of the 30th March, 1856, is maintained, with power to His Imperial Majesty the Sultan to open the said Straits in time of peace to the vessels of war of friendly and allied Powers, in case the Sublime Porte should judge it necessary in order to secure the execution of the stipulations of the Treaty of Paris of the 30th March, 1856."

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 151.

The Marquis of Salisbury to General Hamley.

(No. 29.) *Foreign Office, July* 10, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatches to No. 33 inclusive of the 21st ultimo, and in conveying to you my approval of your proceedings as British member of the Boundary Commission for the delimitation of the frontiers of Bulgaria, I wish also to inform you that Her Majesty's Government have noted with great satisfaction the energy you have displayed, which has so largely contributed to expedite the operations of the Commission.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 152.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 11.)

(No. 15. Political.) *Erzeroum, June* 19, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Obermuller, the Russian Consul-General, returned yesterday from the Russian frontier town of Olti, where, as I reported in my despatch No. 11 of the 7th instant, he had proceeded along with Major Kinnaragan for the settlement of a dispute about the occupation by Turkish troops of two villages * alleged to be within the Russian boundary line. The matter has been settled, as I anticipated, amicably; the Turkish soldiers, who were only six in number, having now evacuated the villages in question in obedience to orders from the Ferik Pasha in Erzeroum.

M. Obermuller informs me that the greater portion of the Mahommedan population in the recently annexed districts of Kars, Ardhan, and Olti are emigrating to Turkey; no less than 3,500 families have given notice of their intention to leave. The Russian Government is throwing no hindrance in their way, but, on the contrary, is buying up their lands at their value as recorded in their title-deeds and in the Government register. In Kars itself many of the Mahommedan inhabitants are remaining, but from the districts the emigration appears to be pretty generally universal. From Kaghisman district I hear that nearly all the Mahommedan families are emigrating. From Ardahan about two-thirds, and from Kars one-third. A company of Armenian speculators was formed in Tiflis, whose object was to take advantage of the necessities of the emigrants and buy their lands at nominal prices, but the Government interfered to prevent this, and the land has almost always been purchased by the Russian Government, who intend, I believe, to resell, if possible, to *bonâ fide* Russian settlers.

M. Obermuller assures me, and I hear the same from other sources, that it has almost universally been the case when negotiating the sale of the lands for prices based on the old official records, the Russian authorities have been assured that these registers were false, *i.e.*, that in order to defraud the Ottoman Government the lands had been assessed at a figure far below their true value. The Russians naturally, under the circumstances, insisted on paying according to the official Turkish valuation, and there is little doubt but that they thus obtain the land at from one-fifth to one-tenth of its real value. This is an indication of one of the many ways in which the Ottoman Government has been and still is defrauded of fair revenue. The lands were "Miri," for which an annual payment of 5 per cent. on the nominal value was paid to the Government.

M. Obermuller informs me that there is no foundation for the statement I made at the close of my despatch No. 45 on the authority of the Armenian Bishop, that the Russian Government was going to refrain for a period of eight years from levying taxes on the inhabitants of the recently annexed districts.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY TROTTER, *Major*,
Consul for Kurdistan.

No. 153.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 11.)

(No. 16. Political.) *Erzeroum, June* 21, 1879.

My Lord,

THE Imperial Commission has not made very marked progress with the work of reform during the past week; much of its time has been taken up in discussing the somewhat pressing matters of the revolts in Dersim and amongst the Moaki Kurds. Progress has been made in discussing the details of the proposed gendarmerie, and the Commissioners' proposals will probably be sent for submission to the Porte by the next mail.

The question of substituting a fixed cash payment in lieu of the existing system of tithes has also been under consideration, and statistics are being prepared in connection therewith. Yusuf Pasha, the first Commissioner, appears to be keen upon

* Pikeh and Sulkians, about half-hour's distance south of Olti.

introducing this much-wanted reform. The provincial budget has also been dipped into with a view of making proposals to the Porte that a certain fixed percentage of the revenue shall be absolutely set aside for provincial purposes, the balance only to be remitted to Constantinople.

To go somewhat more into detail in some of these matters I may mention that the Commissioners have been in telegraphic correspondence with the Sublime Porte on the subject of the so-called Dersim Rebellion. They hinted pretty strongly that it would be desirable if Dervish Pasha could be replaced by some one more amenable and less unscrupulous.

The business has closed, however, by the Porte deciding in favour of Dervish Pasha, who has now received direct telegraphic instructions from Constantinople to proceed against the Dersimlis according to his discretion. It appears that Dervish Pasha succeeded in obtaining the support of Abdin Bey, the Imperial Commissioner for Diarbekir Vilayet, while the latter was passing through Kharput on his way to Diarbekir, and the wishes of the Erzeroum Commissioners have been overruled.

In my despatch No. 45 to Her Majesty's Ambassador (copy of which was forwarded to your Lordship) I estimated the Kurdish (Kizzil-bash) population of the Dersim at from 100,000 to 150,000 souls. This was based on an old report of a former Consul. I learn, however, from the Imperial Commissioners, that the official records of the vilayet give a total of 18,323 Kurdish males and 2,129 Armenians, so that the population of the whole district may, perhaps, not exceed 40,000. The inhabitants of the north-eastern cazas of Kuzujun, about one-third of the total population, are said to be quiet, and the present military proceedings are directed against the remaining two-thirds in the west and south cazas of Owajik and Mazgird. Dervish Pasha has more than thirty battalions at his disposal.

Of the disturbances amongst the Moaki Kurds who inhabit the mountains west of Bitlis and south of Mush we have only a telegraphic communication from the Pasha of Van, to the effect that two of the principal Chiefs have been fighting amongst themselves, and that the Rayahs, and especially the Christians, have been suffering in consequence. Several of the latter have, I believe, been killed. The Pasha had sent officials to try and arrange the matter peacefully, but the mission had utterly failed in the attempt, and its authority was ignored, and the Governor sought permission from the Imperial Commissioners to send troops against the rebels. This matter has also been referred to Constantinople for decision, and the Governor of Van has been requested to give details as to the number of troops at his disposal, and as to the powers of resistance of the insurgents. The Commissioners, with whom I concur, desire to suppress the disturbance with the aid of the military before the revolt shall assume larger dimensions.

I have by a previous mail addressed a letter privately to Her Majesty's Ambassador, asking whether any competent European officer was available for the head of the new provincial gendarmerie, as I believe the Commissioners would willingly recommend the appointment of a European if a fit person could be found. Like myself, they are of opinion that it is men, rather than measures, which are required to bring about reforms, and that the best theoretical arrangements possible are useless unless honest and efficient men can be found to carry them out.

The subject of financial arrangements will probably shortly occupy a special despatch.

I am tired of reiterating the same thing, but as long as soldiers are some four years in arrears of pay, and the zaptiehs for two years, the Turkish Empire cannot be said to be in a state of security. I am aware that the Vali Pasha and the Mushir (Dervish Pasha) are not even a month in arrears, but I don't know that that fact improves matters. If it is desirable in the public interests that the Pasha's salary be retained in the vilayet, it is surely even more desirable that the pay of the privates should not be withheld. It is ridiculous to talk of introducing a new gendarmerie until arrangements be made for their regular payment, and of that fact the Commissioners are as well aware as I am.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER, *Major*,
Consul for Kurdistan.

No. 154.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 11.)

(No. 735.)
My Lord, *Paris, July 10, 1879.*

IN pursuance of the instruction contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 842A of the 30th ultimo, I made M. Waddington acquainted yesterday with the contents of the despatch No. 264 of the 12th ultimo, in which Sir H. Drummond Wolff expresses his very high sense of the great personal kindness shown to Lord Donoughmore and himself, and the gentlemen associated with them, by the Commissioners of the other Powers and the gentlemen attached to them in the Eastern Roumelia Commission.

I expressed at the same time to M. Waddington the recognition by Her Majesty's Government of the personal friendliness shown by the French members of the Commission to their British colleagues.

M. Waddington begged to convey to your Lordship and to Sir H. Drummond Wolff his thanks for this communication.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 155.

Pro-Memorid communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Count Menabréa, July 11.

LA Commission Internationale pour la délimitation du Monténégro étant restée, depuis le mois d'Avril dernier, dans un état d'inactivité nuisible à tous les intérêts, les Délégués d'Italie et de France ont fait les propositions suivantes, lesquelles ont été acceptées par les Délégués Ottomans, savoir: de désigner le tracé des nouvelles limites sur la carte topographique et de placer sur le terrain des bornes sur les points seulement où les parties intéressées se trouvent d'accord; de faire des marques précises sur les autres points, sans préjuger toutefois les réserves de la minorité.

Ce projet, n'ayant pas été accepté pas les autres Commissaires, les Délégués Ottomans persistent dans le refus d'accompagner la Commission Internationale sur le terrain de délimitation. Cet état de choses ne pouvant se prolonger indéfiniment, l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté le Roi d'Italie à Londres, d'après le désir de son Gouvernement, a l'honneur de s'adresser à son Excellence le Marquis de Salisbury pour le prier de vouloir bien examiner la question afin de voir s'il y aurait lieu à donner au Commissaire de Sa Majesté Britannique des instructions spéciales pour l'autoriser à accéder au projet sus-indiqué.

35, *Queen's Gate, S.W., le* 11 *Juillet*, 1879.

No. 156.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 11.)

(No. 541.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 11, 1879, 1·5 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 148, the retention of Sir C. Dickson's services must depend upon your Lordship's desire to have officer attached to Embassy, who, through his influence and experience, can render exceptional services to Her Majesty's Government. If your Lordship decides that he is no longer required, I would suggest that he should not be withdrawn till Captain Swaine arrives.

No. 157.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gould.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 11, 1879, 1·55 P.M.*

SPEAK to Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs in the sense of the telegram sent to you yesterday by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, and urge acceptance of Turkish proposal.

No. 158.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 152.) *Foreign Office, July* 11, 1879, 2 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

YOURS No. 533. I have instructed Mr. Gould to urge acceptance of Turkish proposal.

No. 159.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 11, 3 P.M.)

Tirnova, July 11, 1879, 9·9 A.M.
(Telegraphic.)

HIS Highness left this morning for Sophia, and Dondoukoff for Rustchuk. I leave for Sophia by Philippopolis to receive and send despatches, and shall be at the capital by the end of next week.

No. 160.

Lord Tenterden to General Hamley, at Buyukdéré, care of Her Majesty's Embassy, Constantinople.

Foreign Office, July 11, 1879, 4·30 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

IN reply to your telegrams of the 3rd and 11th instant, Colonel Stanley is of opinion that all arms, accoutrements, and instruments should be sent home, and that the tents and other effects should be disposed of on the spot.

I have to instruct you to proceed accordingly.

No. 161.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Palgrave.[a]

Foreign Office, July 11, 1879, 5 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

PLEASE let me know what you estimate to be the number of Russian troops now in Bulgaria.

I should be glad of an immediate answer.

No. 162.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 154.) *Foreign Office, July* 11, 1879, 6·15 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

THE following has been communicated to me as the view of the Austrian Government on the Montenegrin dispute:—

"If the British Government is prepared to consent to the Austrian Staff Map being, on the whole, adopted as a basis for the operations of the Commission, after it has been accepted by the majority of the Commission, we should not object to a new survey being taken at those points where the majority of the Commission will have considered it absolutely necessary.

"We hereby start from the supposition that the Porte will have been induced to accept the majority principle."

I forward this proposal to your Excellency, as it seems to us a reasonable compromise, which we are prepared to adopt, and which you should recommend when you have the opportunity.

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[a] Similar telegrams were sent to Mr. Cumberbatch and Consul-General Michell.

No. 163.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 11, 6·30 P.M.)

(No. 537.) *Therapia, July* 11, 1879, 2·20 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

RECALL of Hussein Pasha of Scutari has been confirmed by Sultan. Ali Haidar Pasha, now in Crete, has been proposed to His Majesty as Hussein's successor.

No. 164.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 900.) *Foreign Office, July* 11, 1879.
Sir,

WITH reference to the desire expressed by the Porte that Servia should at once sanction the establishment of a Turkish Consul at Nisch, as reported in your telegram No. 533 of the 10th instant, I have to acquaint your Excellency that I have instructed Her Majesty's Minister at Belgrade to urge the Servian Government to accede to the wishes of the Porte in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 165.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 904.) *Foreign Office, July* 11, 1879.
Sir,

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Excellency's information, the accompanying copy of a Memorandum which has been communicated to me by Count Károlyi, containing the views of the Austrian Government upon the question which has arisen with regard to the settlement of the Montenegrin frontier.*

The substance of this Memorandum has been forwarded to your Excellency by telegraph, and contains the following proposition:—The Austrian Government will not object to a new survey being taken at those points where the majority of the Boundary Commissioners consider it absolutely necessary, provided that the British Government consent that the Austrian Staff Map shall be adopted on the whole as a basis for the operations of the Commission after that map has been accepted by the majority of the Commission. It must, of course, be understood beforehand that the Porte has been induced to accept the principle of the majority in this, as has been done in other cases.

This suggestion appears to Her Majesty's Government to offer a reasonable compromise of the difficulties which have been raised, and they wish that it should be supported by your Excellency at the Porte whenever you may have an opportunity for so doing.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 166.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Michell.†

(No. 18.) *Foreign Office, July* 11, 1879.
Sir,

I HAVE to instruct you to report to me with as little delay as possible, as nearly as you can ascertain it, what is the number of the Russian troops still remaining in Eastern Roumelia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* No. 155.

† Similar instructions were addressed to Consul-General Palgrave and Mr. Cumberbatch, as to troops remaining in Bulgaria and Roumania.

No. 167.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gould.

(No. 68.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 11, 1879.*

YOU will have learnt from the telegram sent to you yesterday by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople that the Porte is prepared to negotiate a Convention with Servia to regulate the appointment of Consuls in their respective territories, which, however, would require some time, and that meanwhile it considers it of great importance to Ottoman interests that Servia should at once permit the establishment of a Turkish Consul at Nisch, where the Mussulman population is said to be very numerous.

I have instructed you by telegraph to-day to urge the Servian Government to give a favourable reply to the wishes of the Porte in this respect.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 168.

Captain Sale to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 12.)

(No. 13.)
My Lord, *Scutari, July 2, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report that a meeting of the Montenegro Boundary Commission was held yesterday on the demand of the Italian Commissioner.

The Italian Commissioner proposed:—

(1) That the Commission should recommence work.

(2) That they should (in modification of a previous decision) place permanent boundary marks only where both the interested parties were agreed, placing temporary and provisional marks where the lemetrophe parties differed, and submitting with the protocols the alternative schemes proposed by either Turkey or Montenegro, or both.

The first proposition was carried, I myself opposing, deeming it entirely inconsistent with the declaration made in Protocol No. 10, and also because it appeared to me worse than useless to attempt to recommence work until the decision of the Porte in the matter of the removal of Hussein Pasha had been made known here.

The second proposition was lost. It would have been tantamount to placing temporary boundary marks over the whole frontier, as there is no single point in which the Turks and Montenegrins are in agreement. This procedure appeared to myself and the majority of the Commissioners to be highly objectionable.

The Russian Commissioner then proposed that the Commission should at once proceed to mark out the frontier by permanent boundary marks, following the opinion of the majority.

The Turkish Commissioner declined to take any part in such a demarcation.

Feeling that it was not possible to proceed with the demarcation whilst the Commissioner of one of the lemetrophe countries abstained from taking part, the majority of the Commission voted against the proposition.

The séance had therefore no result except to encourage the local authorities in their opposition, and to demonstrate the uselessness of attempting to resume work until the Turkish Commissioners have received explicit orders to follow the majority, and not to withdraw themselves whenever they disagree with a decision taken.

I understand that certain members of the Commission are applying to their respective Governments for authority to proceed with the demarcation even in the absence of the Turkish Commissioner, but I do not propose to take part in any such proceeding except under instructions from your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE, *Captain, R.E.,*
Commissioner.

No. 169.

Captain Sale to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 12.)

(No. 14.)
My Lord, *Scutari, July 2, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of despatch No. 14 with its inclosures complete.

As regards the proposition made by Carathéodory Pasha, viz., that the Commission should prepare a regular survey of the country adjacent to the new line of frontier, and that the Signatory Powers of the Berlin Treaty, having the survey before them, should decide on the disputed points, I have the honour to remark that this course appears to me to be hardly feasible.

There arise concerning this frontier such a mixture of questions of principle (involving, perhaps, a modification of the text of the Treaty itself), and of purely local details, that it would be exceedingly difficult to come to any decision without local knowledge, even if provided with the best and most complete survey which could be made; moreover, even supposing the local knowledge to be available, the questions at issue could hardly be settled by correspondence, without some sort of conference of the Representatives of the Powers.

It is also to be remarked that the preparation of a regular survey would be a work of time, and would certainly give rise to a somewhat protracted delay. On the other hand, there are undoubtedly such errors in the Austrian chart (and consequently in the text of the Treaty of Berlin) as will make it exceedingly difficult for the Commission to decide on any line of frontier without departing from either the text or the obvious intention of the Treaty; and this must necessitate fuller references to the Porte, with the usual protracted delays consequent thereon. If it is not found practicable to induce the Porte to send peremptory orders to its Commissioners to follow the decision of the majority of the Commission, I would venture to suggest to your Lordship, as a compromise, and as the quickest way of meeting the objections which have been, and will continue to be, raised by the Ottoman Representative, that the Commission should be instructed to make a thorough local investigation; and that, after having furnished itself with all the local information deemed necessary, including sketches of all the disputed ground bordering on the Vilayet of Scutari, it should proceed forthwith to Constantinople to meet there, so that each Commission could receive instructions from his Ambassador in direct communication with the Porte.

In this way there would be every possibility of the question at issue being quickly settled, when the Commission could return to the frontier.

I would venture to point out to your Lordship that the course which is now proposed would not involve any real delay, for, as matters stand, we shall have in any case to await the settlement of the Gusinje-Plava question before continuing the demarcation beyond the Vilayet of Scutari.

As soon as the questions arising from the errors in the text of the Treaty and the Austrian Staff Map have been disposed of, the actual demarcation on the ground itself could be very rapidly carried out.

As regards the details mentioned in the inclosure with the despatch of the 5th June from Carathéodory Pasha to Musurus Pasha, I attach a Memorandum concerning the several points raised by the Turks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE, *Captain, R.E.,*
Commissioner.

Inclosure in No. 169.

Memorandum respecting the points raised in the Inclosure to the Despatch of Carathéodory Pasha to Musurus Pasha, dated June 5, 1879.

(1) I HAVE little or no doubt but that Megured and Kalimed actually exist as shown on the Austrian Staff Map, and also on the much more complete and accurate Austrian naval chart (Antivari, No 25, scale $\frac{1}{300000}$).

The Turks say that the village named Kalimed is really Kalimān, and forms a part of the village of Megured, and that Kalimed itself is a mountain; even if this be so, the intention of the Treaty is plain enough, and a mere error in spelling is not sufficient to invalidate the text.

(2) Here the Turks are certainly wrong. I have satisfied myself (as also all the other Commissioners except the Ottoman Representative) that the isle of Gorica-Topal is correctly named on the Austrian Staff Map.

(3) This is the most important error in the chart, for in fact Plawniqza is close to Zabliac, and to follow the text of the Treaty would be to give a very large portion of the Podgoritza plain to Turkey.

(4) I have not had the opportunity of investigating the boundaries of the tribes on the spot; but, as far as I can make out from inquiry here, the discrepancies have been very greatly exaggerated in the sketch map which accompanied the inclosure to the despatch from Carathéodory Pasha.

(Signed) M. T. SALE, *Captain, R.E., Commissioner.*

No. 170.

General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 12.)

(No. 35.)
My Lord, *Hotel Bellevue, Buyukdéré, Bosphorus, July 4, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to request instructions as to the time at which I should leave Constantinople for England.

It is, I understand, probable that the Bulgarian Boundary Commission will finish its work before the Commission on the Servian frontier. The signatures of this Commission will be formally necessary to complete the work of the Servian Commission. I have consulted the President, the French Commissioner, who is of opinion that the signatures may be affixed separately by the members of this Commission after their return to their respective countries. I therefore request your lordship to inform me whether I should await here the report of the Servian Commission, or return at once on the conclusion of the settlement of the work we have been engaged on. I would observe that should any member of the Commission who may request instructions from his Government on this head (as all I presume will) be desired to return at once, the rest would have no further reason for remaining.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

P.S.—I beg that you will be pleased to reply by telegraph.

E. B. H.

No. 171.

Mr. Lawrence to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 12.)

(No. 176.)
My Lord, *Athens, July 4, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship an extract from the "Messager d'Athènes" of yesterday, commenting upon the despatch which your Lordship addressed to Sir H. Layard on the 12th ultimo.

The "Messager d'Athènes" is of opinion that both your Lordship and Lord Derby made the Greek Government believe that when the Eastern question was settled, if they would abstain from taking part in the war, they would obtain the same advantages as the Slavs, and yet all that Greece obtained from the Treaty of Berlin was the 13th Protocol, the carrying out of which England has never pressed on Turkey, and she has ceased to support the claim of Greece since the acquisition of Cyprus, which Sir H. Layard only obtained by threatening to support the aggrandizement of Greece.

The Article goes on to state that before the end of the war Lord Derby had negotiated successfully at Constantinople in favour of Greece, and after the conclusion of the Treaty of Berlin Lord Beaconsfield recognized the obligatory character of the 13th Protocol, which the Porte had adhered to.

The "Messager d'Athènes" considers that perhaps the meaning of your Lordship's despatch to Sir Henry Layard is that no Treaty had been signed between England and Greece as to Epirus and Thessaly, but Greece recalled her troops on condition that the Greek question should be laid before Congress, and the two provinces

were pacified through the influence of the Greek Government, exercised at the request of England, who gave the assurance that the insurgent provinces would be considered in a state of war until Europe had decided as to their fate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. LAWRENCE.

No. 172.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 12.)

(No. 536.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 11, 1879, 2·15 P.M.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs tells me confidentially that the Council of Ministers has determined to recall the present Pasha of Erzeroum, with whose conduct the Commission [two groups wrong] dissatisfied, and to put at once into [group wrong, ? force] reforms required for that province.

With this object a new Règlement for it, founded, as far as circumstances permit, upon the Organic Statute for Eastern Roumelia, is being prepared, and will be submitted to Armenian Patriarch and other Armenian notables for their approval.

A number of inferior Governors will be at once dismissed, and will be replaced in some instances by Armenians, and probably one of the Mutessarifs will be of that creed, and the organization of the gendarmerie will be at once proceeded with.

I believe that Porte now sees the absolute necessity of doing something for the Armenians, and I have hopes that we shall succeed in having [group wrong] reforms carried out. I am doing all I possibly can to this end.

No. 173.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 12.)

(No. 538.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 11, 1879.*

FOLLOWING sent to Consul Henderson to-day:—

"Commission has been authorized to extend amnesty to Babek and followers, but empowered to add as condition that they should leave country. It appears to me that, if this condition be insisted on, it would be well that it should be accepted, as I shall probably be able to have it revoked. Porte has agreed to accept demands of people of Zeitoun contained in your despatch No. 39, with, I am assured, only some unimportant exceptions."

No. 174.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 12.)

(No. 539. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 11, 1879, 1·40 P.M.*

TURKISH Minister for Foreign Affairs told me to-day that some Ministers were against naming Plenipotentiaries to discuss with the Greek Plenipotentiaries new line of Greek frontier, on the ground that, in consequence of declaration of Greece that she would accept nothing less than line she recommended at Berlin, according to her view of it it was useless to enter into any discussion with her. Only mischief was to be apprehended from meeting of Plenipotentiaries. His Excellency asked me my opinion, very confidentially, on the subject. I replied that my personal opinion was that a refusal to name Plenipotentiaries would be considered offensive to the Powers—at least to some of them; that they ought to be appointed without further delay, and be prepared to make generous and liberal offer of territory to Greece; and that, although it was now rather late to expect any modification in the views of the Powers the course I suggested appeared to me the one best calculated to obtain their sympathy and support.

Do you approve advice?

No. 175.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.[*]

(No. 156.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 12, 1879, 5 P.M.

PLEASE report at once whether Shefket Pasha has been appointed to a command in Thessaly, and if so, where.

There is a question in House of Commons on Monday.

No. 176.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 157.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 12, 1879, 5:20 P.M.

YOURS No. 539.

The advice you have given to the Porte on the Greek question is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

No. 177.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 910.) *Foreign Office, July* 12, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received your telegram No. 539, Secret, of the 11th instant, in which you informed me that, in the course of a conversation which you had had with the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, his Excellency had consulted you as to the advisability of the nomination by the Porte of Plenipotentiaries to discuss with those of the Hellenic Government the new line of the Turco-Greek frontier, a measure which his Excellency stated was discouraged by some of the Sultan's Ministers.

Your Excellency will have learnt from my telegram No. 157 of this day's date that Her Majesty's Government approve the advice which you gave to his Excellency that the appointment of such Plenipotentiaries should take place without further delay, and that they should be furnished with instructions to offer liberal territorial concessions to Greece.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 178.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 19.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, July* 12, 1879, 12·10 P.M.

IN reply to your telegram No. 45, partly decyphered, I have reason to believe that only 5th Division remains in this province. It consists of about 10,000 infantry, 1,000 artillery, and 2,000 cavalry, which latter are moving towards Shipka, remainder towards Bourgas, where last man is to be shipped on the 2nd August, new style. Last regiment leaves this town to-morrow, and by 2 P.M. not a single Russian soldier will be left here.

(Sent to Embassy.)

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[*] A similar telegram was sent to Consul-General Blunt.

No. 179.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 58.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July* 12, 1879, 6·45 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 5, President of the Commission assures me that the question of adjusting the discrepancy of the two maps has never even been mooted.

A few days back, opportunity offering, I endeavoured to obtain decision in the sense of my telegram No. 53 by application to the Russian Ambassador at the Porte through Sir H. Layard, but I regret to say Russian reply was evasive and misleading.

There is little doubt that the appointment of the new Russian Commissioner has for object to ignore what is already done, and commence *de novo* by fresh line of approach to gain advantages towards Ziwin [?].

No. 180.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 543.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July* 12, 1879, 7·40 P.M.

I UNDERSTAND that Musurus Pasha is to make a final appeal to your Lordship with regard to inaccuracies of the Austrian map of the Montenegrian frontiers, and for a new survey; but I am inclined to believe Porte will ultimately agree to the conditions mentioned in your telegram No. 154.

No. 181.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 545.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July* 13, 1879.

YOUR 156 just received.

Am afraid I cannot ascertain to-day, being Sunday, but will let you know to-morrow. Shefket was appointed to a command at Monastir, but not, that I have heard of, to one in Thessaly?

No. 182.

Mr. Cumberbatch to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 1.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, July* 13, 1879.

THERE are no Russian troops at all in Roumania. The few that did remain in the Dobrudscha have all left. Those embarking at Rustchuk go by river to Reni (*sic*).

No. 183.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 13, 6·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, July* 13, 1879, *noon.*

FROM Captain Sale:—

"Turkish Commissioner has received orders from Constantinople to recommence work with Commission on those parts of frontier only which are not disputed. As every part of the boundary is disputed, this is tantamount to ordering their continued inactivity.

"Russian and Montenegrin Commissioners have gone to Montenegro, and decline to return until the matter is settled and the Turks receive orders to resume work.

"Turkish authorities have not had orders as yet as to the recall of the Vali of Seufari.

"(Sent to Constantinople.)

(Signed) "SALE."

No. 184.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 13, 11 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, July 13, 1879, 6 P.M.*

IN October last Shefket Pasha was transferred from command of Salonica to that of Monastir, and in November he was sent to Larissa, in Thessaly, where he is now serving as second in command under the orders of the Mushir, Aledi Pasha.

No. 185.

Consul Henderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 20. Political.) *Nargizlik, June 26, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a despatch I have addressed to Sir Henry Layard, suggesting the expediency of immediately amnestying Babbek, the Chief of the so-called brigands, at Zeitoun, and his eight associates.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

Inclosure in No. 185.

Consul Henderson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Nargizlik, June 26, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith in original a letter I have received from Babbek, the Chief of the band of so-called brigands of Zeitoun. I had sincerely hoped that the Imperial Commissioners on their recent visit there would have seriously considered the undoubted claims of Babbek and his associates to the most favourable consideration of the supreme Government.

The noble forbearance he has shown since he gave me a promise to abstain from any violence, or even from retaliation on the Mussulmans, who, mistaking his attitude for one of fear, murdered unoffending Christians wherever they could find them, cannot but produce a strong feeling in his favour, and tends to show that whatever his faults may be, he is well worthy of the Sultan's clemency. Your Excellency is already aware of the utter failure of the mission of the Imperial Commissioners to Zeitoun, and that instead of ameliorating the state of affairs in that unhappy district, their presence has intensified the feelings of animosity between Mussulman and Christian.

It is far from my intention to lay the blame of this unsatisfactory state of affairs on the Commissioners themselves, as I believe them to have been animated with the sincerest desire to terminate, in an equitable and satisfactory manner, all the vexed questions relating to Zeitoun, and I attribute their failure to instructions they received from a high quarter, which they could not but obey; besides, at the last moment the fanaticism and intrigues of several high-placed functionaries at Constantinople prevailed, resulting in the constant interference of the Porte, which of itself would have rendered success impossible.

The question of Zeitoun and the continued ill-treatment of the Christians has now entered on another phase, and Babbek makes a last appeal to us, an appeal I transmit to your Excellency, in the full conviction that unless some action is taken immediately to prevent the Porte from recklessly causing a further sacrifice of life, I shall have the unwelcome task imposed upon me of recording to your Excellency the recommencement of the shocking scenes of bloodshed and disorder that have lately given this vilayet a rather unenviable notoriety. I would respectfully beg your Excellency to procure from the Porte a conditional amnesty for Babbek and his eight associates, and I would request your Excellency to be good enough to telegraph to me

whether this is possible or not. Ghaleb Pasha entirely concurs in opinion with me, and has asked me to beg your Excellency to use your influence with the Porte to induce the Grand Vizier to ask his Excellency's opinion on this matter.

He is on the spot, and it would be but reasonable on the part of the Porte to ask and act on the opinion of their highest provincial functionary, who must surely know the actual situation better, and can give a less prejudiced opinion than the functionary whose malignant intrigues have paralyzed the action of the Commissioners.

Lieutenant Chermside has received a similar letter from Babbek, and he informs me that as he had already forwarded what he considers his final report on Zeitoun, giving the whole of the information he imagines your Excellency would require to come to a decision, he did not think it necessary to forward this document.

I have read this despatch to Lieutenant Chermside, and he says he fully concurs in the urgent expediency of an immediate decision as regards Babbek, and has reported to your Excellency the gravity of the situation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

No. 186.

Consul Henderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 21. Political.) *Nargizlik, June 26, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a despatch and its inclosure I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople with reference to the unsatisfactory state of the Vilayet of Adana.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 186.

Consul Henderson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Nargizlik, June 26, 1879.

Sir,

I TOOK the opportunity of Lieutenant Chermside's visiting Adana to ask him to be good enough to give me a Report on the administration of that vilayet by Zia Pasha.

The numerous complaints which have been made against him, the exposure in the press of a state of affairs almost as bad as that which existed in the Aleppo Vilayet in the time of Kiamil Pasha, and the impossibility of obtaining from Zia Pasha any satisfaction for well-grounded complaints, induced me to make this request to Lieutenant Chermside.

His Report, which I inclose herewith, confirms in every respect the reports that have reached me, and I think exposes a state of affairs which is disgraceful, and which would be a public misfortune if allowed to continue. That one of the most productive granaries of the Roman Empire should be reduced to a barren and deserted wilderness is a sad monument of what misrule and oppression can do, and no amelioration can be hoped for as long as officials such as Zia Pasha are appointed as provincial Governors. Named by favour, they look on their vilayets as productive mines from which to extract the largest amount of gold in the shortest time. Shut out, as many of the most fertile districts of the interior are, by their want of communication and the ruinous expense of transport from a market for their agricultural produce—an evil that can alone be remedied by the introduction of public works and enterprise on a large scale,—it is all the more distressing to find a district so admirably situated as that of Adana for commercial and agricultural development in the same impoverished and miserable condition, and while the administration remains what it is, and the probability of procuring justice, such as that exemplified in the Dingwall case, there can be little hope of attracting the foreign enterprise and capital, and that alone can develop the resources of the country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 186.

Lieutenant Cherniside to Consul Henderson.

Narghistu, Syria, June 25, 1879.

Sir,

IN accordance with your wish, I forward you some account of the state of the Vilayet of Adana, and the administration of Zia Pasha.

I have travelled through a large portion of the province, only, however, as far west as Mersina. The district visited includes the greater portion of the extensive Cilician plains. I must inform you that my visit having been hurried, I can only give hastily-formed opinions and impressions that further experience might perhaps modify considerably. On first entering the vilayet from the east—in fact, as far as Adana—I was much pleased at all I saw and learnt concerning the Vali, and although, except in the ever-present evidences of grinding and oppressive taxation, there were extremely meagre signs of the existence of any Government authority, such signs were distinctly in marked and pleasing contrast to those in the district I was just leaving—Aleppo Vilayet.

Brigandage was not nearly so rife; I neither met any brigands personally, nor came across, as in the district referred to, the daily-recurring tales of robbery and outrage unheeded and unchecked. But the most pleasing point was the comparative absence of fanaticism and of ill-feeling between the different sections of the population, and the assurances given by the Kaimakams and Mudirs of their Governor-General's impartiality in this respect, whatever may be his other failings. The above may seem hardly to account sufficiently for the feeling experienced, but I can only say that the transition seemed most marked, like coming into a new country. The present Vali has not, however, been long enough in office for very much of the feeling in the country to be due to him.

Hearsay, too, as to the Governor's initiative and intentions in favour of public works, decidedly biassed me in his favour. Fresh from the contemplation of the misery, crime, and despair produced by the partiality of Government functionaries, influenced by religious fanaticism, I was prepared to advance every palliation I could for such accusations against the Vali as seemed well-founded, and to urge my opinion of the enormous counterbalancing advantage in such a functionary of such qualities as a desire for public works and measures of progress, and an absence of fanaticism.

I regret to state, after a visit of some days to Adana, Tarsus, &c., that, in spite of the advantages above mentioned, I must give it as my opinion that there is no hope of good administration in the province unless the Vali be removed, and that his presence there is most detrimental and ruinous to the interests of the Government and people.

I must disclaim in this the idea of being influenced by any personal relations with Zia Pasha. At the time of my arrival, harassed and embarrassed as he was by the presence of Akhif Pasha, deputed to inquire into the numerous complaints as to his maladministration and corruption; in expectancy of the arrival of another functionary to assist in the inquiries, who actually arrived during my stay; at open variance with the Defterdar, the most grave accusations being made by him against this official, and *vice versâ*, and aware that numerous complaints as to his conduct had been made, not only to the Porte, but to the Embassies, he found it impossible to look on my mission as merely relating to the Dingwall affairs.

Orders were sent by him to all the Government functionaries in the district to pay me every attention; the Vali himself lost no opportunity of attempting to ingratiate himself with me, or of trying to gain my favour by flattery and cajolery.

Our relations were never the least strained, as he is a man of European manners, and I spoke to him with all possible openness and frankness, and though his conduct and actions were distinguished by subtlety, double-dealing, and all the intrigue and want of good faith Orientals are so versed in, his manners were always unexceptionable, and in proof of my good faith, as the result of the conversation at our last interview, I left with him a letter to the effect that if he accepted what I believed to be my legal demands in the case in point, I authorized Mr. Rand, the Dragoman, to accept the decision of the Tribunal as if I was present, while if my demands proved illegal, on their being shown so I was equally ready, on receipt of a notification of the same, to authorize Mr. Rand to accept the decision as my representative.

Zia Pasha is a man of undoubtedly advanced ideas, and he knows and feels what so many Turkish functionaries merely profess, that some adaptation of European systems and models can alone regenerate the hopelessly defective Ottoman organization.

He is, however, weak, and has fallen into the almost universal error of Turkish functionaries—party Government. The fatal objections to this in a Governor I need not dwell upon, and it is unfortunately repeated throughout the country in all the lower grades, every petty Kaimakam and Mudir, all almost, obliged to truckle to or connive at the proceedings of local beys or magnates, being almost to a man interested commercially, by speculation or by corruption, to gain money in local affairs, introduce partizanship into the Administration, and the lamentable spectacle that the unrestrained abuse of arbitrary authority, combined with the want of sense of moral responsibility, that the buying of places, and the fatal policy of merely depriving functionaries of their office without exemplary punishment, produces, is further aggravated by the prostitution of justice and equity by all, from Vali to Mudir, to the exigencies of party Government.

The accusations of dishonourable commercial speculations on the part of the Vali that I must treat of later serve, of course, to illustrate this in his case, and you are of course aware how, in every minor administrative subdivision, the same obtains, till, with every Ottoman functionary I have recently conversed with—I cannot recall an exception—the same conviction crops out in conversation: "Our Government cannot govern us; we cannot administer ourselves."

Zia Pasha is a trader, and avails himself of his position as Governor-General as a means of successful commercial speculation with small risks and gigantic profits. Not content with availing himself of the opportunities of the species of stock jobbery the fluctuations of the caimé placed in the hands of Governors-General, a temptation several seem to have been unable to resist, land speculation, percentage on the dimes, the direction of public works, speculation in "havales," or mortgages on the taxes, preference payment of which the connivance of the treasurer enables a Governor to secure; these are only some among the many affairs in which, through his agents, the Vali takes part.

Zia Pasha, one of the originators of "La Jeune Turquie" party, has undoubtedly claims from talents, experience, and education, to be considered an enlightened Turkish functionary.

Convinced, as he told me, that after his recall from exile, such was the dislike to, and mistrust of, his presence at Constantinople, as in the case of Midhat Pasha, that practical exile to distant vilayets would be his only chance of employment, he has a great feeling of resentment against, and contempt for, his own Government.

He professes to despair of being able to effect much in the way of reform, persuaded, as almost all the high functionaries are with whom my mission has brought me in contact, that owing to the influences which succeed in prevailing in the highest quarter of the Empire, the obstructive spirit of all progress, the dogged resistance to all counsels coming from the Christian west, he can expect no support, and, unless supported by European influence or intervention, makes no secret of his belief that any real advance is beyond the power of a Vali.

Imbued with such ideas, he has taken to money-making; clever and unscrupulous, the money he sends to Constantinople has as yet served to stifle and suppress the numerous utterances of complaint against him, while such is the hold over him of those whose complicity in his schemes is necessary to him, that as in the Tarsus case, where I firmly believe in his wish to assist me, upright and independent action has become impossible for him.

Checked and controlled by a Consular Corps, with an Inspector of Justice for his Courts and one of gendarmerie for his zaptiehs, with secure tenure of office, unless removed for dereliction of duty, and with the prospect of real exemplary punishment and disgrace for such dereliction, a measure now never enforced, but, in my humble opinion, one of paramount importance throughout the administrative system, I believe that Zia Pasha would compare favourably with many Turkish Valis, though I can only repeat my belief that at present his presence is most detrimental to the vilayet, and that even if he extricates himself from his present difficulties, and the Ottoman Government, in face of the almost impossible problem of finding honest and upright officials, decides to retain him in employment, that it would be most advantageous for the sphere of his labours to be changed, and that such control as is indicated is indispensable.

The Adana Vilayet, as regards cultivation, public works, and well-being of the people, is indeed in a most lamentable condition.

The accounts I have seen of the state of cultivation of the vast Cilician plains, the contented nature and the prosperity of the industrious population, appear to be very much exaggerated.

The state in which the neighbouring island of Cyprus was at the time of our occupation is probably somewhat of a criterion, but while in the former case there was the somewhat numerous Christian population, in the latter the fertile district is merely a thinly populated wilderness.

From Osmanieh to Adana, a journey of sixty miles, all through this vast plain, it is only on approaching Adana that any but a few scanty patches of cultivation are seen. These magnificent plains, watered by five rivers and hemmed in by lofty mountains, rich in timber and mineral wealth, plains once, it is said, important granaries of an Empire, remind me forcibly of the most sterile and desolate parts of the Dobrudja, the general cultivation of which, for all its want of water, is certainly ahead of the Cilician plain.

Even taking into account the cultivation round Adana and Tarsus, and from the latter place to Messina, I believe that not 15 per cent. of the whole is under cultivation. The capabilities of the soil are fully evidenced by the valuable crops that are actually grown, small as is their quantity.

The villages, miserable huts, occupied in winter by the Kurds, Yuruks, and Turkmen, who live under awnings in the summer, are few and far between, and the inhabitants, poor and unenterprizing, with no money for seed corn, but few oxen, &c., content themselves with eking out a bare subsistence. There are, too, some Nogay Tartars, here as elsewhere in Turkey, quiet, law-abiding folk, patient, industrious agriculturists, who if encouraged would do a vast amount for the country.

Of the Fellahs or Ansariehs who live by the streams and in the gardens round the towns I need not speak, except to say that their unambitious, unenterprizing nature, and the existing abuses, limit their production to their necessities.

The total population of this vilayet is, I believe, 240,000, the rural population, almost exclusively Mussulman or Ansarieh, with the exception of five Greek villages near Seleffke (Seleucia), one near Mersina, and the Armenian population of the Kozan-Dagh, and in the neighbourhood of Hadjin, in all 35,000 Armenians and 10,000 Greeks. There are but few if any Circassians. They do not like the plains, and of the numerous refugees but few, the Vali tells me, remain. They have removed to Gyuk-Sun, Elbistan, &c., districts, where large numbers of their lawless compatriots are already established, centres that I fear will, unless the matter be taken in hand, prove in the future the foci of many troubles and disorders.

Of the exports wool, grain, and cotton I need not speak, as the Vice-Consul (Mersina) will have furnished you all necessary details. There are no industries worthy of mention. The gross revenue of the province, exclusive of customs, is over 200,000*l.* (24,000,000 piastres). How enormously this might be increased with an increased population, good government, and the development of the natural, agricultural, irrigational, and mineral resources that would result from the attraction of foreign enterprize and capital, I need hardly point out. I know of no more favoured district in Turkey: excellent soil, abundant water, and water power, easy facilities for developing communications, timber, coal, minerals, and all the necessary elements for the establishment of industries and manufactures are at hand.

The ziptieh service of the vilayet is in much the same chaotic, disorganized state that is general throughout the Empire. Connivance of the police with the thieves is as usual notorious, but does not, according to rumour in this case, extend to the Colonel, only up to the Bimbashi (Major).

As to the Adana Tribunals, I can say little except that they are subservient to the Governor; the rest I understand are in the unsatisfactory condition almost universal throughout the country.

Of the notion of that at Tarsus you are aware.

I have already alluded to the feud between the Defterdar and the Vali; each abused the other to me, but there is little doubt which way victory is inclining, as Akbif Pasha, the Commissioner, seems undoubtedly disposed to protect the Vali, it is of course said for pecuniary considerations; he asked me to meet him, and we exchanged visits.

The Defterdar came from Aleppo, and you are aware of his notorious character for corrupt practices. His arrival at Adana was, however, so speedily followed by embroilment with the Governor, that he has, I imagine, had little opportunity for corrupt practices.

The Vali is, the Defterdar assures me, attempting to suborn witnesses against him, and he has therefore challenged an examination at Constantinople, where false testimony would, he imagines, break down; he offers, if convicted, himself to pay the expenses of the witnesses.

I append a Turkish document, being a summary of the charges against the Vali, and a French précis of the same.

As to such charges as that of the Bazaar, the Canal, the Theatre, and other public works, one can say nothing,—all depends upon proofs: it is, of course, a most lamentable system that allows the arbitrary collection and administration of public monies by such a powerful functionary as the Vali; the control of such monies can be at least only nominal. Unless confident of their proofs the accusers would hardly dare to advance such charges.

As regards the other charges, that of land at Mersina is well substantiated; Mr. Raad, British Dragoman, was among those anxious to bid.

The 100*l.* concerning the removal of corn from the Koniah Vilayet has actually been repaid, as the merchant held a receipt.

The Karadash affair, which was abandoned, is also one as to which Mr. Raad has personal knowledge.

The most serious charges are, perhaps, those of procuring "havales" or mortgages on the taxes, and of paying these from the Treasury before due (five years, I believe). Anton Effendi was the name of the agent in whose name they were made out; 300*l.* was offered to the late Defterdar for connivance, and on his refusal he was removed to Aleppo. The new Defterdar was offered 200*l.* This transaction is said to have brought the Vali over 5,000*l.*

The affair about the cloth is also notorious; the cost said to have been 45,000 fr., the profit 20,000 fr.

Another "havale" for 10,000 medjidiehs the Vali is stated to have paid from the Chest (with 900,000 piastres came) during the illness of the Defterdar.

Numerous other complaints were made to me. A Greek doctor told me he was doctor of the Municipality; 50*l.* was demanded of him privately for retention of his post; he refused to give it, and was dismissed next day.

The Hospital Superintendent at a salary of 400 piastres a month was replaced by a client of the Vali's at 1,400 piastres, and the hospital charges enormously increased; this is a charge that is capable of most reasonable explanation, or the case may be as represented, and several other charges to which a similar remark applies, and as to which I can express no opinion, I will not add.

I am, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE, *Lieutenant, R.E., Military Attaché.*

Inclosure 3 in No. 186.

Summary of Charges against Zia Pasha.

PAR suite de plusieurs plaintes faites à plusieurs reprises à la Sublime Porte, Akif Pacha a été envoyé pour faire une enquête sur la conduite de Zia Pacha. Les plaintes relevées à ce sujet sont:—

Couverture du Grand Bazar en Bois. Le Vali a ordonné de couvrir en bois un bazar construit d'une manière à le préserver de l'incendie et dont la largeur est de quatorze piques. Les propriétaires ont essayé une opposition à cet ordre injuste, dont l'exécution mettrait tout un grand bazar en risque d'être ravagé par les flammes au moindre feu tombé à une des boutiques; mais toute démarche était inutile, et malgré les oppositions de tout le monde, le Vali a réussi à exécuter son projet, par force et contre le gré des propriétaires, dont les uns ont été mis en prison et les autres ont été grossièrement insultés et menacés. Il a amassé à ce titre une grande somme d'argent, dont la grande partie a été tournée à son propre profit.

Calomnie.—Le Vali a soupçonné que Haki Bey et Mehmed Effendi, deux jeunes étudiants, faisaient les copies des plaintes formulées contre lui, et il les a fait arrêter injustement et sans aucune sentence.

Insulte.—En parlant des membres du Divan Teymise, le Vali dit au Cadi, "Chassez ces 'pesevinli,'" terme impoli, et ensuite ceux-ci ont été plusieurs jours absents.

Place de Théâtre.—Il a fait faire à la Municipalité et à ses frais, dans le Palais du Gouvernement, une place des théâtres, qui a coûté à la Municipalité à peu près 30,000 piastres, en bonne monnaie, et ne donne qu'une rente très-minime.

La Farine dans l'Eau.—Comme un des partisans du Vali, Hassan Effendi a acheté un moulin à vapeur, pour être agréable à celui-ci, le Pacha, sous prétexte que les

moulins à eau faisaient une mauvaise farine, les a visités et a fait jeter dans l'eau toutes les farines qu'il y a trouvé, et qui appartenaient aux pauvres habitants, et afin que ceux-ci ne continuât a y porter leurs blés, il a fait mettre à la Municipalité des hommes à examiner la qualité des blés qui y venaient, et de la sorte tout le monde a été obligé d'avoir recours au moulin de l'ami du Vali.

Canal du fleuve.—A ce titre le Vali à amassé une grande somme d'argent, et il a fait creuser un petit canal à l'autre côté du pont d'Adana, prétendant que le courant du fleuve engloutirait un jour une grande partie de la ville—idée tout-à-fait fausse de prétendre que le petit canal, tel qu'il a fait creuser, puisse tourner le courant d'un fleuve comme celui d'Adana. En effet, par suite d'une inondation on n'a plus vu les traces mêmes du canal. Toutes dépenses donc étaient inutiles.

Caissier du Gouvernement.—D'après la loi le Caissier doit être, à chaque deux ans, changé; ainsi le terme du Caissier ayant échu le Vali devait le remplacer par un autre, qui n'aurait aucune relation avec le précédent; mais le Pacha, ayant un intérêt tout-à-fait particulier, a changé le Caissier pour son associé, et il n'a fait autre chose que changer la forme, quant au fond, en effet, c'est le même individu.

Terrain de Mersina.—Il y a à Mersina un morceau de terrain qui appartient au Gouvernement, et qui a été à plusieurs reprises exposé en vente, auquel on a offert de £ T. 800 à £ T. 900. Cette fois-ci le terrain a été mis aux enchères; mais l'influence du Vali a arrêté tous les acheteurs; il l'a lui-même obtenu à une somme de £ T. 200, et il a fait perdre par là une grande somme, la fournant à son profit.

Cent livres.—Un Cesarianté Alebigi Oghlou, ayant une partie du blé retenu par le Gouvernement de Conia, a convenu avec le Pacha de lui payer la dite somme en cas que le Gouvernement de Conia laisserait libre son blé. Comme il y avait une manque de confiance de tous les deux partis, les 100 livres étaient déposées à la Caisse contre un reçu comme quoi le Vali se disposerait de la somme en cas de délivrance du blé.

Le Pacha a fait tout son possible pour la délivrance, mais en vain. Ensuite, il a fait des dépêches particulières sans obtenir aucun résultat; alors le négociant a réclamé la restitution de son argent. Le Vali a refusé de le faire, et a demandé le reçu en question; ne l'ayant pas obtenu, il a fait mettre l'homme en prison après l'avoir bien insulté.

Terrains de Youmourtalik.—Le Gouvernement de Gospli avait ordonné le mesurement de tous les terrains vacants qui lui appartiennent à Ayas et Youmourtalik, et en a empêché en même temps la vente. Le Vali n'a pas cru que cet ordre le concernait, et il s'est fait acheter des terrains à Youmourtalik et à Caradache, à peu près à 20 paras le donume. Il a même pris des terrains qui appartenaient aux habitants.

Draps pour les habits des zaptiés.—La loi exige que l'on ne fasse aucun achat pour le compte du Gouvernement sans le faire aux enchères publics. Le Pacha n'a pas cru devoir faire la même chose. En voulant acheter des draps pour en faire des habits aux zaptiés il s'est entendu avec le Drogman de France, qui lui a cherché des draps pour 800 habits, à un prix très-cher et d'une qualité très-inférieure.

Le Ministre de zaptiés n'a point admis cet achat, et en a empêché l'exécution; mais Zia Pacha ne faisant point attention à l'ordre de son supérieur a exécuté l'achat, et en a fait payer la valeur de la Caisse du Gouvernement.

Dîme de Tarsous l'an 24.—Les dîmes de Tarsous était au commencement des enchères à £ T. 11,268, et elles étaient susceptibles d'augmentation de grande somme. Le Pacha y a envoyé son Secrétaire, qui en a effectué la vente hors des enchères à £ T. 30 de plus seulement. Alors plusieurs d'entre les acheteurs des dîmes ont fait leurs plaintes pour cette vente illégale.

Le Ministre de Finance a demandé des explications à ce sujet. Le Vali, pour se sauver devant le Ministère, a prétendu que les autres acheteurs n'étaient pas solvables; tandis que, un des acheteurs avait proposé d'en payer la moitié de la valeur comptant. Ainsi le départ du Secrétaire à Tarsous pour vendre les dîmes a coûté au Gouvernement £ T. 10,000.

Dîme d'Adana (même an).—On avait décidé de donner une partie des dîmes quinze villages à £ T. 5,000, ayant eu un différend entre les acheteurs de dîmes la somme s'est élevée à £ T. 5,700. Il paraît que cette augmentation n'a pas convenu à son Excellence, qui l'annulle en laissant cette partie au charge du Gouvernement, et l'on ne sait pour quelle raison.

Baie de Caradache.—Il y a près de Caradache une baie où il y a beaucoup de poissons; le Vali voulant l'acheter, l'a fait exposer en vente.

En faisant entendre qu'il en est acheteur, un certain docteur Grec s'est proposé de l'acheter, le Vali a fait tout son possible pour l'en détourner, mais en vain, car

l'acheteur étant sujet Hellénique ne le craignait pas. Ensuite, la vente de la baie n'était pas achevée.

Cinq millions.—A l'occasion de l'insurrection de Cozan, la Sublime Porte avait mis à la disposition de Gouvernement d'Adana des grandes sommes à Alep et à Damas, le Vali, profitant de l'occasion, a envoyé son Secrétaire à Cospoli d'où celui-ci a acheté des consignations ("havalé") de Gouvernement payables à la Caisse d'Adana, et le Vali s'est fait payer toute une somme de 5,000,000 en caïmé. L'ex-Defterdar, n'approuvant pas de telles opérations, a prié la Porte de l'envoyer à une toute autre place, et a déclaré qu'autrement il donnerait sa démission; aussi la Porte l'a envoyé à Alep.

Résumé.—Si l'on venait à examiner ce qui est indiqué plus haut on trouverait qu'il y a là des vérités incontestables; que les unes sont prouvées et constatées par les archives du Gouvernement, et les autres par les témoignages de tout le monde d'Adana; mais de l'influence de Vali nous ne pouvons tout dire.

(Signé) 36 Avocats-Généraux.

Le 9 Juin, 1879.

No. 187.

Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 14.)

(No. 15. Political.)

My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, July* 1, 1879.

IT was stated lately in the European newspapers that the Mussulmans of Bosnia had presented a petition to the Great Powers asking that autonomy be granted to this province, and that the Austrian troops be withdrawn. I have made inquiries on the subject here, and I think I can confidently say that, if any such petition has been presented, it has not emanated from the Mussulmans at present residing in the country, but is probably the work of refugees at Constantinople who pretend to speak on behalf of their fellow-countrymen. These refugees, of whom there are probably a considerable number from different parts of the province, not having accepted the amnesty and returned to their homes within the given period, now fear to do so, and would therefore be glad to see any change whatever in the administration and government of the country. I do not pretend to say that the Mussulmans of Bosnia and the Herzegovina are content with the Austrian occupation, far from it, but they are, I think, gradually becoming reconciled to it as the lesser evil. They are convinced that the Porte can no longer afford them efficient protection, they prefer to be under Austria to being annexed to Servia or Montenegro, and they know well that were Bosnia to be made an autonomous province, the Christians would soon gain the upper hand, and that they would not be treated with the same consideration as they are now by the Austrians.

With reference to the statement in my despatch No. 14, Political, of the 3rd ultimo, that the Austrians had failed to win the sympathies of the native population, further inquiry has convinced me of the correctness of my statement, both as regards the Catholics and Orthodox Christians as well as the Mussulmans, and the following are asserted to be the principal reasons of the existing ill-feeling:—

In the first place, the Mussulmans are annoyed because their mosques and "tekkés" have been used as storehouses. They think that, even if the exigencies of the moment rendered such a step necessary last year, there has been time enough during the ten months that the occupation has already lasted to make some other arrangement and to erect any necessary buildings.

Their next grievance, and this is equally shared by the Christians, is the quartering of soldiers in their houses, for which no one appears to have received payment. The damage also that has been done to the houses thus occupied is perfectly incredible, in many cases every bit of woodwork having been torn down to serve as fuel, damage which innumerable proprietors will not have the means of making good whenever their houses are evacuated. They with justice think that ere this sufficient huts might have been constructed to house the troops, and this burden removed from the people.

The Mussulmans also are subject to the constant instigation of the Orthodox Christians, whose policy it is to provoke dissatisfaction with the Austrian Administration.

The Catholics are discontent, because they expected when the Austrians arrived to obtain the upper hand in everything, although they are the least numerous and poorest portion of the population, and there are very few amongst them capable of holding important positions. I fear the Franciscan clergy are responsible for much of this discontent.

The Orthodox Christians, Serbs as they are called here, say that had they not maintained an insurrection against the Porte for three years the Austrians would never have occupied the country, and they therefore consider themselves entitled to greater consideration than they receive.

Then, again, the Agrarian question is a continual thorn in the side of both Mussulman and Christian. The former consider that their interests are not sufficiently protected, while the latter are disappointed that they have not been put in the place of the Mussulmans as proprietors of the soil.

Finally, all classes and creeds complain of the difficulty of getting any affairs with the Government settled and finished. They say that there was even greater expedition under the Turkish régime, and now also they never know where or to whom to apply, but are bandied about from one department and person to another till they become quite disheartened. This is no doubt to a certain extent true, and is owing to an insufficiency of employés and their complete ignorance of the wants of the people and the customs of the country, and also to the fact, that in the absence of proper Government buildings the various public offices are scattered all over the town, and are sometimes difficult to find, especially as their present appellations are quite strange and void of meaning to the ordinary native. The Courts of Justice are, I believe, more especially short of officials; indeed, they can hardly be said yet to be permanently organized, and as the Turkish law is still in force, of which naturally the Austrian Judges are perfectly ignorant, and of which translations have been made by incompetent persons, it is easy to imagine the delay that occurs in every petty law suit.

After all, the above grievances are, for the most part, not very serious, and may be surmounted by a little goodwill on the part of the Austrians. Matters will no doubt gradually work more smoothly, but, in the meantime, the natives naturally ask where are the administrative reforms which it was the mission of Austria to introduce, and which formed the plausible excuse for an occupation of the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 188.

General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 39.) *Bayuldéré, July 7, 1879.*
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that Lieutenant Hare, R.E., will leave Constantinople for England by the Marseilles steamer of the 9th instant, in conformity with the directions given to him as described in my despatch No. 32.

Surgeon Exham will return to England by the same steamer.

It has happened that there has not been so much occasion as might have been expected for employing the topographical party; but whenever called on Lieutenant Hare has worked in an excellent spirit, and shown his recognized skill as a military topographer.

Surgeon Exham has been of great use to the Commission, and has always afforded prompt attention to such cases of sickness as have occurred, and has probably thereby prevented several slight ailments from assuming a more serious character. He also made himself extremely useful in taking charge of the provisions, and managing other business in camp, which the officers, when engaged in their own duties, could not attend to.

Sergeant Onn, R.E., will proceed to England at the same time, with directions to report himself at Chatham on arrival. There has not been much opportunity for testing his abilities in his own branch of the service, but he has been of great use to the party in superintending various matters in camp and on the march, and has shown himself a very steady, intelligent, and trustworthy non-commissioned officer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 189.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 413. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 6, 1879.*

IN a further conversation that I had yesterday with Count Andrassy upon the question of religious liberty in Roumania, I endeavoured, and I believe not without some success, to persuade him that he would in no way commit himself to further action if he consented to make known to the Government of Bucharest the condition upon which the four Powers were willing to recognize the independence of the Principality. I showed him that, in complying with the request, he could with truth represent to the Roumanian Government that he did so, not for the purpose of adding to a pressure upon them, but with the object of giving them an easy way of escaping from a pressure of a severer character, as the insertion into the Constitution of the terms of the Treaty under which the Principality had been called into independent existence was suggested as the simplest mode of fulfilling the conditions upon which alone the Powers had declared themselves ready to sanction the creation of a new independent State.

Upon his repeating the question he had before asked, as to what would be done in the event of the Roumanian Government not agreeing to the proposal, I said that the four Powers would in that case have to determine what they should do next, but that this need not disturb him, as the fact of his having transmitted their message would not identify him in any future action to be taken.

After we had discussed the question for some time, Count Andrassy showed himself decidedly moved by my arguments; and, although he did not take any distinct engagement, he gave me every reason to believe that, if the communication he has made to Bucharest does not produce the desired result, he will not refuse to accede to the request which it is proposed to make to him.'

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 190.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 415. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 6, 1879.*

IT appears that the Russian Ambassador has been showing some persistence in urging Count Andrassy to declare that the Austrian Staff Map must be strictly adhered to in the delimitation of the frontier of Montenegro and Albania.

He has told M. Novikow that the Commissioners must be guided by the map and by the spirit and meaning of the Treaty; but if a majority of them were of opinion that, by following the line traced on the map, the arrangements mentioned in the Treaty respecting the Albanian tribes would not be carried out, there ought to be a fresh survey of the localities, and the frontier should be made to correspond with the intentions of the Congress.

Count Andrassy has also told me that the Montenegrin Government had intimated to him that they intended to move their capital to Podgoritza; but as that place would be commanded or threatened by the Turkish positions, if the frontier is drawn as proposed, they could not do so, unless it were pushed some eight or ten kilometres further back, and they support their demand by a reference to the 12th Protocol of the Conference.

Count Andrassy does not consider that the Protocol affords any ground for entertaining the demand, which has the support of Russia, and he is determined strenuously to resist a proposal which he looks upon as having been brought forward solely with the purpose of securing for the Montenegrins a favourable position for attack on the Turkish territory.

With regard to the question of Gorica-Topal, his Excellency repeated the opinion I have before reported to your Lordship, that, as all the Commissioners except the Ottoman were agreed upon the line which the Treaty was intended to indicate, their decision ought to be maintained, especially as he believed the point at issue to be of little practical importance, while an adherence to the understanding that the verdict of

a majority of the Commission upon all questions in dispute was to be final was most essential.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 191.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 417. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 7, 1879.*

IN speaking of the Greek Frontier question, Count Andrassy told me that he proposed to make a suggestion by which your Lordship's wish to preserve Janina to Turkey might be attained without giving the Greeks occasion for complaining; that the Powers were now proposing a frontier that would give them less than what they assume to have been promised at Berlin.

He saw that the abandonment of Janina could not be obtained from Turkey except at too great a cost, but he wished that the exclusion of it from the territory to be ceded should result exclusively from the insuperable objections of the Sultan to make the sacrifice. He would desire, therefore, that the line to be proposed by the Ambassadors at Constantinople to the Porte should bring it within the Greek frontier, but if, as was certain, it encountered a determined resistance from Turkey, he would then be prepared to fall back upon an alternative line, by which the position to which so much value was attached should be retained by the Sultan, while compensation for Greece was found in Thessaly.

He trusted that your Lordship would consider that a way out of the difficulty might be found in the manner he suggests, without giving Russia the advantage of being able to represent to the Greeks that she has shown herself more solicitous for their interests than the other Powers, for he was more than ever convinced of the Russian Government having pronounced themselves in favour of the cession of Janina only because they were aware that it could not be carried out, as they could not be suspected of any real desire to see an extension of the Greek Kingdom, which might at some future period interfere with the further advance of the Slavs.

I said that as your Lordship had already expressed a strong objection to the cession of Janina, I thought that you might not feel able to fall in with his suggestion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 192.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 422. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 8, 1879.*

ABOUT a fortnight ago Prince Bismarck proposed to Count Andrassy that the question of religious liberty in Roumania should be treated by the Representatives at Constantinople, and that, in the event of the Roumanian Government proving obstinate in refusing to perform the obligation imposed upon them by the Treaty of Berlin, as the condition of their independence, the Porte should be called upon to resume the Suzerainty of the Principality.

Count Andrassy refused to entertain a suggestion which he regarded as a threat that could not possibly be put into execution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 193.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 423. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 8, 1879.*

BARON CALICE has communicated to me confidentially a report from Count Hoyos, the Austrian Minister at Bucharest, written after executing the instruction by which he was directed to urge the Roumanian Government to take the necessary measures for carrying out what was required of them in reference to the position of the Jews.

He had informed them that the Governments of England, France, Germany, and Italy were about to call upon them to substitute the XLIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin for the VIIth Article of the existing Constitution, warning them in the plainest language that those Powers were not disposed to be trifled with, and that their demand could not be disregarded.

Commenting upon the eminently unsatisfactory report of the Commission, of which your Lordship will have received a copy from Bucharest, Count Hoyos said that it is not approved either by the Ministers or by the majority of the Members of the Chamber, who perceive that it cannot be accepted by the Powers as sufficient; but the maximum of the concessions which M. Bratiano represented as possible still remained very far short of what is requisite. He would be ready, it seems, to modify the proposed restrictions upon the acquisition of Roumanian nationality to the extent of abstaining from requiring the proofs of the qualifications for it which are suggested in the report of the Commission. He would consider it sufficient that applicants born in the Principality should not have themselves been under the protection of a foreign State, instead of requiring that this should have been equally the case with their parents.

He would agree that the decisions upon the applications for nationality should be taken at once, instead of being deferred for ten years from the date of their being made, as proposed in the Report, and he would further admit that the right of nationality should be given by the vote of a simple majority, instead of by that of two-thirds of the Chambers.

On the other hand, M. Bratiano's language upon the question of allowing Jews to possess land appears to have been altogether unsatisfactory. No Government, he said, could pass such a law; and, if passed, it could not be put into operation in the face of a population unanimous in a determination to resist it.

M. Bratiano asked Count Hoyos whether the Powers would be satisfied if, with the view of preventing the Jews from being placed in an exceptionally disadvantageous position, the right of holding land in Roumania were to be withdrawn from all foreigners; but he was at once answered that the suggestion could not be entertained.

Count Hoyos is evidently of opinion that the Roumanian Government will not, and perhaps cannot, give way upon the question, and, as they are in advance of public opinion with regard to it, if they were to resign the administration would pass into the hands of men still less well-disposed.

He states that in Moldavia, where two-thirds of the landed property is said to be mortgaged to Jews, it is believed that their complete emancipation would soon convert the country into a "new Palestine," and the anti-Jewish feeling was every day gaining in intensity. People were already asking what they had gained by being declared independent, if foreign Powers were to come in and dictate their internal laws, for they were, they say, more practically independent while under a nominal Suzerainty of the Sultan, or even while under the Protectorate of Russia. They even suspect, according to Count Hoyos, that in insisting upon measures which could not be enforced excepting under the presence of foreign troops, the Powers have some design of establishing an occupying force in their country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 194.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 427.)
My Lord,

Vienna, July 10, 1879.

IT appears from Sir Augustus Paget's telegram to your Lordship, and repeated to me yesterday, that the Italian Chargé d'Affaires here had attached undue importance to a remark dropped by the German Ambassador at the meeting of the Representatives upon the Roumanian question.

In the course of a desultory conversation, some observation was made about the difficulty of constraining the Roumanians to act in the manner required, and in answer to this Prince Reuss remarked that the Danube might be blockaded.

It was a loose conversational remark, that I never thought of reporting to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 195.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 351.)
My Lord,

Berlin, July 12, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I had yesterday an opportunity of expressing to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, as instructed by your Lordship's despatch No. 347 of the 4th July, the recognition by Her Majesty's Government of the personal friendliness which had been shown by the German Members of the Commission for the organization of Eastern Roumelia to their English colleagues.

Herr von Radowitz said that it was exceedingly gratifying to him to receive this communication, and his Excellency begged me to assure your Lordship that the great personal kindness which had been extended to the German Delegates by Her Majesty's Commissioners, Sir H. Drummond Wolff and Lord Donoughmore, was highly appreciated by them, as well as by the German Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 196.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 322. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Rome, July 8, 1879.

IN the course of the conversation which I had yesterday with M. Depretis, his Excellency, in speaking of the Greek frontier question, stated that he had the best reasons for believing that the Turkish Government were prepared to agree to the line of frontier as proposed by the Italian Government.

M. Depretis added that he should himself be quite ready to comprise the whole of the Gulf of Arta, including Prevesa, in the cession to be made to Greece, and I mention the circumstance because I feel pretty sure that any Minister who may succeed M. Depretis will certainly not be less favourably disposed to Greece than his Excellency, and because I gather from Lord Lyons' despatch No. 699, Most Confidential, of the 30th ultimo, of which a copy is inclosed in your Lordship's despatch No. 368 of the 4th instant, that such a modification of the original Italian proposal might, perhaps, bring M. Waddington nearer to its acceptance.

I may mention that one of the principal grievances against the foreign policy of M. Depretis on the part of some of the Radical as well as moderate Liberal press has been his so-called abandonment of the Greek cause.

I consider it not all off the cards, therefore, that the new Italian Ministry, especially if its foreign affairs are directed by M. Cairoli, may possibly revert to the original proposal of the Berlin Congress.

In the conversation above referred to M. Depretis took occasion to defend his administration against the accusations of intrigue and ambitious views in Albania,

which are so repeatedly levelled against them. He declared that they were absolutely and entirely false, and that his whole and sole object in view had been to arrive at some arrangement in the interests of both Greece and Turkey, and which might be likely to prove a peaceful solution, at all events for the present, of this difficult question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 197.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 326.)
My Lord,

Rome, July 8, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 325 of to-day's date, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I learnt to-day from Count Tornielli that the Italian Chargé d'Affaires at Vienna has telegraphed that, at a meeting of the Representatives of the Powers on the question of religious toleration in Roumania, the German Ambassador spoke of employing menace, and even force, if the Roumanian Government did not accept the proposal now made.

Count Tornielli asked me to state that the Italian Government, in agreeing to join the other Powers in the communication it is proposed to make to the Government of the Principality, through the Austrian Cabinet, did not contemplate employing coercion of any kind, which, indeed, seemed to be precluded by the terms of your lordship's proposal, and that if coercion is used, they cannot be a party to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 198.

Memorandum communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by M. Barthelemi, July 14.

DANS intérêt d'apaisement, le Gouvernement Impérial est d'avis qu'il y a urgence de terminer la délimitation entre la Dobroudja et la Bulgarie qui reste en attendant en suspens. Comme des conflits pourraient surgir après l'évacuation des troupes Russes, le Gouvernement Impérial avait proposé, soit une entente directe entre les Cabinets, soit la nomination d'une nouvelle Commission munie d'instructions conciliantes sur bases de transactions que le Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg avait suggérées précédemment. La Commission pour la délimitation des Balkans, ou une Sous-Commission, pourrait recevoir des instructions à cet effet, et se rendre sur les lieux. Si tel était le cas, le Gouvernement Impérial maintiendrait son point de vue que la Commission devrait examiner quelle serait la localité à l'est de Silistrie où un pont entre les deux rives du Danube pourrait être établi. La Commission aurait alors à faire le tracé d'une nouvelle frontière en dehors de la banlieue de Silistrie; en cas d'unanimité, sa décision serait reconnue définitive; sinon il appartiendrait aux Cabinets à prononcer.

No. 199.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 547.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, July 13, 1879, 11·45 P.M.

I RECEIVED yesterday telegram from Henderson and Chermside condemning conduct of Mazhar Pasha and treatment of Christians of Zeitoun. I made this morning the strongest representations to Grand Vizier and Minister for Foreign Affairs threatening to discontinue relations with them until I received your instructions unless Mazhar Pasha were recalled, and protection given to the Christians. A special Council will in consequence be held to-morrow to appoint a new Commissioner, who may be Midhat Pasha or Yussuf (?) Pasha of Trebizond, with extraordinary powers to deal impartially and justly with question of Zeitoun, and to punish Mazhar Pasha and others who may have failed in their duty in this respect.

It would, I think, be well if your Lordship would tell Musurus Pasha that Her Majesty's Government are greatly dissatisfied with the treatment of the Christians in Asiatic Turkey, and that the consequences would be serious if the Porte did not at once put into execution the promised reforms.

No. 200.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 158.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 14, 1878, 2·30 P.M.

YOURS No. 538.

Her Majesty's Government have learned with great satisfaction the promises of reforms held out by the Porte.

You should continue to urge the importance of carrying them into execution.

No. 201.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 14, 3:50 P.M.)

(No. 17.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, July* 14, 1879, 2:30 P.M.

IN compliance with your Lordship's instructions, I have urged on Servian Government acceptance of Turkish proposal in my telegram of 10th instant from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

For reasons stated in my despatch No. 183, Minister for Foreign Affairs insists on previous Convention, which, he alleges, can be concluded without loss of time. Project has been forwarded to Constantinople, and submitted to Porte by the Servian Minister, who will likewise communicate it to Her Majesty's Ambassador.

(Above transmitted to Constantinople.)

No. 202.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 912.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 14, 1879.

IN my telegram No. 158 of this day's date, I have conveyed to your Excellency the great satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt the assurances given to you by the Porte, as reported in your telegram No. 538 of the 12th instant, with regard to the reforms to be carried out in the district of Zeitoun.

It is the wish of Her Majesty's Government that your Excellency should continue to use your best endeavours to convince the Turkish Government of the high importance which they attach to the execution of these promises.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 203.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. Walsham.

(No. 354.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 14, 1879.

IN the course of a conversation which I had on the 8th instant with the German Ambassador respecting the present aspect of the Jewish question in Roumania, I informed him that reports had reached me of other demands, unconnected with religious liberty, having been made by the German Government a condition of recognizing the independence of the Principality. It had been stated that some conditions of a commercial character connected with the railway question had been communicated to the Secret Committee of the Roumanian Assembly as a *sine qua non* of German recognition. I said I was convinced that this could not be accurate; but I thought it as well to inform him of the rumour, because it had an injurious effect upon the ultimate solution of the Jewish question.

Count Münster informed me that he had never heard of any suggestion of the kind, and that he was convinced it was untrue. The German Government were engaged in negotiations with respect to the railway securities of Roumania, of which a large number were held by their own subjects, but he was quite convinced they never mixed up their demands upon that question with the recognition of Roumanian independence.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 204.

Major Gordon to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 39.)
My Lord, *Camp Mülch, June* 21, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Colonel Philippoff, the Russian Commissioner, on rejoining the Commission from Constantinople on the 19th instant, informed us that he had now available five topographists whom he wished to send forward to the Rhodope district to survey the country from thence to Mount Kruschowa Dagh.

Colonel Philippoff stipulated that the topographists should be accompanied by a Russian squadron.

His Excellency Reouf Pasha, on being referred to, could only approve of a Turkish squadron, which would be sufficient to secure the personal safety of the survey parties, each of which would also be furnished with an interpreter.

Colonel Philippoff has referred the matter to his Ambassador at Constantinople.

Neither during nor after the war could Russian soldiers enter these districts, and the Turkish local authorities appear to be of opinion that, were they to do so now, it might lead to possible collision with the inhabitants.

Under the circumstances, I proposed to send forward Mr. de Wolski, R.E., three sappers, a Turkish and Russian topographist, to Mount Cadir Tepe, and thence work to meet the Commissioners by the Rhodope, Despoto, and Kruschowa Daghs.

I was induced to make this proposition as the district is but little known, and a mere reconnaissance survey will greatly aid and accelerate our labours.

The Austrian Staff Map in these parts becomes very vague.

My proposition was accepted with unanimity, and these officers start for Mustapha-Pasha to-day, and thence by rail to Philippopolis. His Excellency Reouf Pasha, the Governor of the district, has been requested to furnish necessary escort.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. GORDON, *Major,*
93rd Highlanders.

No. 205.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 172.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, June* 25, 1879.

M. RISTICH informs me the Servian Delegate to the European Boundary Commission for Servia, Lieutenant-Colonel Zdravkovitch, will shortly be replaced by Colonel Jovanovitch, who acted last autumn in the same capacity during the delimitation of the Vranja section of the Servo-Turkish frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 206.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 174.)
Belgrade, June 29, 1879.

My Lord,

REFERRING to my despatch No. 160 of the 17th instant, I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship that the Turkish Envoy here has been instructed by telegraph to represent to the Servian Government the necessity of appointing, without further delay, the Servo-Turkish Commission which, in conformity with the prescriptions of Article XXXIX of the Treaty of Berlin, is to settle all matters relating to the vakoufs and the properties of the Ottoman State in the territories ceded to this Principality.

The Servian Government do not, however, seem to have taken up the matter with anything like the same alacrity as the Sublime Porte, for M. Ristich, after vainly urging as reasons for postponing the meeting of the Commission arguments utterly foreign to the question, finally informed the Turkish Envoy he must reserve his reply until he had been able to communicate with Prince Milan upon the subject and receive His Highness' instructions.

Being impressed with the conviction that Her Majesty's Government are earnestly desirous to see all the stipulations of the Treaty strictly and impartially observed, I will not fail to take the first favourable opportunity of reminding M. Ristich that, in her own interest, Servia should avoid even the appearance of hesitating to accede to this perfectly justifiable request on the part of the Ottoman Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 207.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 178.)
Belgrade, July 2, 1879.

My Lord,

THE Ottoman Envoy here has received a communication from the Sublime Porte, announcing that sixty zaptiehs and a considerable body of Nizams have been assembled near Prepolac, in readiness to act as an escort to the European Boundary Commission for Servia.

It complains, however, that on its side the Servian Government has neglected to provide sufficient forces to co-operate with the Ottoman troops in protecting the Commission.

I therefore lost no time in bringing this matter under M. Ristich's notice, and his Excellency has, in consequence, directed the Minister of War to take immediate steps to concentrate the battalion of infantry and the squadron of cavalry which have been told off to accompany the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 208.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 180. Confidential.)
Belgrade, July 3, 1879.

My Lord,

IN reference to the refusal of the Servian Government to grant the requisite exequatur to the recently named Ottoman Consul-General at Nisch, as reported in my despatch No. 128 of the 30th May, I have to add that at the time M. Ristich confidentially expressed, to the Austro-Hungarian Minister here, the hope that, out of friendly consideration for Servia, the Imperial Government would not, for the present, insist on carrying out the intention they had notified to him of appointing a Vice-Consul to reside in that town, as it might afford the Porte a suitable pretext for complaint.

His Excellency said the Servian Government had strong objections to the presence of an Ottoman Consular Officer at Nisch just at this moment, since it might cause

an inconvenient amount of agitation amongst the Mussulman inhabitants of that district, which it would be as well to avoid. This specious reasoning seems to have produced the desired effect, the Austro-Hungarian Government having to all appearances given up, for the present at least, the idea of establishing a Vice-Consulate in the above-mentioned town.

Since then proofs have been rapidly accumulating of the arbitrary and vexatious proceedings of the local authorities towards the Mussulman population of Nisch and Pirot, who are being unscrupulously despoiled of all they possess and compelled to emigrate.

The Ottoman Legation is overwhelmed with complaints from these unfortunate people, a few of whom have managed to make their way to Belgrade in order to lay their cases personally before the Turkish Envoy. He has addressed several notes on the subject to the Servian Government, but so far without obtaining redress.

A wealthy Algerian Jew of the name of Mercado Alkali, possessed of considerable house and landed property at Nisch and in the neighbourhood, has sought the protection of the French Representative here, who has at once brought the matter under the notice of the Servian Government.

According to this man's account, he withdrew from Nisch after the capture of that place by the Servian army, leaving his property in charge of one of his brothers and two trusted servants.

The Servian military authorities imposed a war contribution of 6,000 fr., equal to 240*l.*, on his property; and, as the money could not be raised on the spur of the moment, they carried off everything of value they could lay their hands on from his residence, including some handsome furniture, which now adorns Prince Milan's Konak, or Palace, at Nisch,—likewise the private property of a Turkish subject.

He estimates the loss he has incurred in this way at 23,000 fr., or 920*l.* They have, moreover, pulled down a number of houses and shops in the town belonging to him for the purpose of making public improvements, but without according him any compensation, and they have finally left no means untried to force him to part with his landed property for less than a tithe of its value.

This is but one of many similar cases.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 209.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 183.)
Belgrade, July 6, 1879.

My Lord,

AS I had the honour of mentioning in my despatch No. 180 of the 3rd instant, marked "Confidential," there are good grounds for assuming that the Mussulman population of the districts of Pirot and Nisch will, ere long, be compelled to sell off their property for next to nothing, unless steps are promptly taken to protect them against the arbitrary proceedings of the Servian local authorities.

It is, therefore, extremely desirable that, with this object in view, an agreement should be come to with the least possible delay between the Porte and Servia, so as to enable M. Nicolaïdes, the newly appointed Ottoman Consul-General, to enter upon the duties of his post at Nisch.

Under these circumstances I have, at the instance of the Turkish Envoy, alluded to the subject in the course of conversation with M. Ristich, and reminded his Excellency at the same time that the obstacles unexpectedly thrown in the way of the establishment of an Ottoman Consulate-General at Nisch by the Servian Government exposed them to the suspicion of wishing to conceal the treatment to which the Mussulman population were being subjected in defiance of Articles XXXV and XXXIX of the Treaty of Berlin.

His Excellency explained in reply that the Servian Government did not entertain the slightest objection to the presence of Ottoman Consular Officers at Nisch, or in any other part of the Principality, and that they would readily grant M. Nicolaïdes his exequatur, the moment the Porte pledged itself towards them to concede complete reciprocity in this respect.

The question had been raised at this conjuncture, because they considered it the most favourable opportunity they were ever likely to have of obtaining from the Porte

the recognition of a right they set great value upon, being very anxious, for purely commercial reasons, to name at once a Servian Consul for the Porte of Salonica.

He had therefore caused a draft of a Consular Convention to be submitted to the Porte, through the Servian Representative at Constantinople.

This Convention, without entering into any questions likely to lead to protracted negotiations, such as those relative to Consular jurisdiction or Consular privileges, merely stipulates that both the Contracting Parties shall reciprocally be entitled to appoint Consuls to reside in each other's territories.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 210.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 15.)

(No. 184.) *Belgrade, July* 6, 1879.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 168 of the 24th ultimo, I had the honour to report to your Lordship that, according to the accounts received by the Servian Government, the Austro-Hungarian troops were being gradually massed on the extreme frontier of Bosnia in the direction of Novi-Bazar, and the communications in the above-named province, as well as in the Herzegovina, were far from secure, owing to the appearance of small bands of brigands or insurgents.

This statement was met by a prompt and categorical denial on the part of the Imperial Foreign Office at Vienna.

I have taken care to revert to the subject in the course of conversation with M. Ristich, and his Excellency assures me there cannot be any doubt as to the existence of small bands of brigands or insurgents in certain parts of those two provinces, for he has himself recently had occasion to make official representations to the Austro-Hungarian Government on behalf of Servian subjects who have been waylaid and plundered by them. Moreover, the fact is now openly admitted by the Austro-Hungarian press. As to the concentration, on the side of Novi-Bazar, of Austro-Hungarian troops, His Excellency confined himself to repeating that both the Servian frontier authorities and numerous travellers from that quarter affirmed such a movement was being carried out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 211.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 15.)

(No. 187.) *Belgrade, July* 9, 1879.

My Lord,

THE differences which existed between Servia and Russia respecting the proper position of the old frontier at Veliki Izvor have been so far settled that the Imperial Government have signified their intention of proposing to that of Bulgaria to refer the matter to arbitration should the two Principalities be unable to come to an amicable agreement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 210*.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 15.)

(No. 591.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 7, 1879.

I COMMUNICATED to Caratheodory Pasha this morning the substance of Consul Henderson's despatch No. 42 of the 26th ultimo (copy of which has been transmitted to your Lordship), and urged his Excellency, in the strongest possible terms, to listen to the advice given by Mr. Henderson, and to prevail upon the Porte to send, without delay, a conditional amnesty to Palick, the Armenian (so called) brigand Chief and his followers. I warned his Excellency, most emphatically, that if this and other measures were not taken at once to satisfy the Christians of Zeitoun, and to protect them from ill-treatment and outrage on the part of the Mussulman population and authorities, more blood would in all probability be shed, and the effect upon public opinion in Europe, and in England especially, might lead to the most serious consequences to Turkey.

I reminded his Excellency of what had occurred with regard to the events in Bulgaria, and of the disastrous consequences to which they had led.

His Excellency said that he would bring the matter at once to the notice of the Grand Vizier and his colleagues, and would let me know the result. He observed that the Porte had, however, understood that the Commission sent to inquire into the state of affairs at Zeitoun had discharged its duties in a satisfactory manner, and that order and tranquillity had been restored in the district, both Christians and Mussulmans being well pleased with what it had done. Kiamil Pasha had, moreover, disproved the grave charges made against him.

I replied that the view taken by the Porte did not in any manner coincide with the reports which I continued to receive from perfectly trustworthy sources, and which appeared rather to prove that the visit of the Commission to Zeitoun had made the condition of that unfortunate district worse instead of improving it; and as to Kiamil Pasha, he was endeavouring to shield himself and to mislead the Porte by denying facts which had been proved against him. The massacres at Batak and elsewhere in Roumelia had been similarly denied, and the proceedings of their authors justified, with what result his Excellency was but too well aware.

I called his Excellency's especial attention to the debate in the House of Lords on the Armenian question, brought on by Lord Carnarvon, as a proof of the anxious interest with which the treatment of the Armenians was watched in England, and I again earnestly represented to him the importance of losing no further time in putting into execution the reforms which the Porte had solemnly pledged itself to Her Majesty's Government to introduce into the Sultan's Asiatic territories.

His Excellency declared most solemnly, as he has done before, that those reforms were now under the serious consideration of the Porte, and that as soon as they were settled and approved of by the Sultan, they would be put into execution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 212.

Acting Consul Lyall to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 15.)

(No. . Consular.)
Tiflis, June 25, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that General Lazarell's expedition, which is composed of not more than 10,000 men of all arms, or a portion of it, have turned towards the south, instead of marching directly along the Attrek as originally proposed, and are supposed to contemplate entering Persian territory ostensibly in consequence of the Akhal Tékés having made a "razzia" in that direction, but more probably in order to procure provisions.

The superior officers of the force are, many of them, a reckless, hard-drinking set, and are likely to have few scruples as to exceeding or ignoring their instructions.

Prince Witgenstein, whose antecedents as to infringement of regulations and discipline are well known in the Caucasus, commands the cavalry.

He was removed from the command of a corps of irregular cavalry when in Imeritia some years ago, in consequence of the continued highway robberies committed by his men, which practices it was said that the Prince himself instigated and encouraged.

He had previously violated the Persian frontier with his regiment by crossing it, and attacking a village in time of peace.

From what I can gather I should be inclined to think that the expedition intends pushing on to Merv. It seems to be the opinion here in high quarters that the sooner the British and Russian political frontiers are conterminous the better.

Military men, however, say that the expedition will proceed no further than Ashkabat.

Russian officers lately arrived from the eastern shore of the Caspian represent the Turkomans as much better armed and organized than formerly, and seem to suspect Indian Government agency.

The Russian officers employed on the Turco-Russian Frontier Delimitation Committee complain much of the action of Major Clarke, who, they assert, has delayed the affair needlessly for two months.

They do not complain of the action of the Turkish officials.

A great quantity of warlike stores, artillery ammunition, and some mitrailleuses, have lately passed through Tiflis *en route* to Kars and the frontier fortresses.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER TSCHUDI LYALL.

No. 213.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 15.)

(No. 22.)
Philippopolis, June 30, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the "Compte-rendu" of the seventy-first sitting of the Commission, held on the 5th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 213.

Compte-rendu.—Séance No. 71, tenue le $\frac{21 \text{ Mai}}{2 \text{ Juin}}$ *1879 (16 Djemazi-ul-Akhir, 1296, à la Direction Générale des Finances de la Roumélie Orientale à Philippopoli.*

Présidence de M. DE KALLAY.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring,
M. de Coutouly.

Pour la Grande-Bretagne—
Sir H. Drummond Wolff,
M. Michell.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha,
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures du soir.

Le Compte-rendu de la séance No. 70, lu par M. Rozet, est adopté.

Le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie fait la communication que voici :—

"A la suite de l'échange d'idées que nous avons eu, dans notre soixante-huitième séance, sur l'obligation ou la non obligation pour le Gouverneur-Général de suivre les conseils que la Commission lui donnerait, je me suis empressé de demander des instructions à mon Gouvernement. Celui-ci m'a fait savoir qu'il est d'avis que les décisions de la Commission devront être obligatoires pour le Gouverneur-Général seulement dans le cas où il s'agirait de l'appel des troupes Turques dans la province, pour les autres questions, les décisions de la Commission ne doivent pas être considérées comme obligatoires pour le Gouverneur-Général ; s'il en était autrement on enlèverait toute indépendance à ce dernier, et la Commission se mettrait en son lieu et place, ce qui serait contraire au sens et à la lettre du Traité de Berlin."

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff déclare qu'il a reçu du Foreign Office des instructions analogues à celles de son collègue d'Autriche-Hongrie.

Le Baron de Ring porte à la connaissance de la Commission qu'il a reçu du Chargé d'Affaires de France à Constantinople des télégrammes lui annonçant que la Sublime Porte paraît disposée à donner à ses Délégués des instructions analogues à celles de leurs collègues de France et de Russie.

Les Commissaires de Turquie déclarent n'avoir reçu aucune instruction dans ce sens.

Le Prince Tzeretelew dit que ses instructions n'ayant pas été modifiées et se trouvant en désaccord avec celles de M. de Kallay, il ne pourra participer aux discussions de l'Assemblée tant que ce désaccord n'aura pas disparu.

M. de Kallay déclare que pour lui la question étant tranchée il est prêt à discuter les affaires qui peuvent être soumises à la Commission.

La séance est levée à 7 heures.

(Signé) KALLAY.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
RING.
COUTOULY.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
MICHELL.
VERNONI.
TZERETELEW.
ASSIM.
ABRO.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) ROZET.
ISVOLSKY.
OUBRIL.

No. 214.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 24.)

My Lord, *Philippopolis, July 1, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of the letter which was addressed to me yesterday by M. Vernoni, temporary President of the European Commission, as well as a copy of my reply thereto, expressing my readiness to discuss the question submitted to the Commission by the Governor-General, in the matter of the administration of the local telegraphic service, or any other question connected with the application of the Organic Statute.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 214.

M. Vernoni to Consul-General Michell.

M. le Commissaire, *Philippopoli, le 30 Juin, 1879.*

AYANT reçu une communication que son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser en date du $\frac{1-13}{2-8}$ du mois courant, par laquelle il demande à la Commission Européenne de vouloir bien lui expliquer le sens et l'esprit dans lesquels les Articles 7, 17, 19, 19, 51, et 198 du Statut Organique ont été écrits, et l'interprétation qu'elle croit nécessaire d'y donner avant de procéder à la convocation de la Commission, je désirerais connaître si vos instructions vous autorisent à prendre part à ses discussions et à ses délibérations.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) ALEX. VERNONI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 214.

Consul-General Michell to M. Vernoni.

M. le Président *Philippopoli, le 30 Juin, 1879.*

EN réponse à votre lettre en date de ce jour, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que les instructions dont je suis muni par mon Gouvernement m'autorisent pleinement à prendre part aux discussions et délibérations de la Commission sur la question qui vient de lui être soumise par le Gouverneur-Général, ainsi que sur tout autre sujet ayant trait à l'application du Statut Organique de la Roumélie Orientale.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) T. MICHELL.

No. 215.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 25.)

My Lord, *Philippopolis, July 2, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a Circular letter which I have this day received from M. Vernoni, the temporary President of the European Commission, stating the reason for which he does not consider it desirable to convoke a meeting of the Commission, and suggesting that the present position of the Commission should be made known to the several Governments which it represents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 215.

Circular addressed by M. Vernoni to the European Commissioners.

Philippopoli, le 2 Juillet, 1879.

M. le Commissaire,

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer que MM. les Délégués d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, de la Grande Bretagne, d'Italie, et de Turquie, en réponse à ma Circulaire du 30 Juin dernier se sont déclarés prêts à prendre part à la discussion des questions soumises à la Commission Européenne par son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général au sujet de l'interprétation à donner aux Articles 7, 17, 19, 51, et 198 du Statut Organique. Toutefois MM. les Délégués de France et de Russie maintenant en principe leur point de vue tel qu'ils l'ont développé dans les séances précédentes, la réunion de la Commission Européenne en séance officielle ne me paraît guère promettre de résultats pratiques.

Par ces raisons je crois devoir m'abstenir de convoquer la Commission, et tout en tenant à votre disposition les réponses que j'ai reçues à ma Circulaire du 30 Juin dernier, je prends la liberté de vous suggérer de vouloir bien informer votre Gouvernement de la situation dans laquelle se trouve actuellement la Commission Européenne.

Veuillez, &c.

Le Président temporaire de la Commission Européenne,
(Signé) ALEX. VERNONI.

No. 216.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15.)

Philippopolis, July 3, 1879.

(No. 27.)

My Lord,

THE Governor-General has received information by telegraph from Burgas to the effect that, notwithstanding the recent expedition of General Vitalis, brigandage is still rife in the district of Aidos.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 217.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15.)

Philippopolis, July 3, 1879.

(No. 32.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the French translation of a leading article which appeared yesterday in the "Maritza."

It relates to the condition and reorganization of the local militia, and bears much evidence of "Ministerial" inspiration.

Your Lordship will find in it the arguments used by Aleko Pasha in favour of the employment of Russian and Bulgarian officers in the highest military grades, as well as many of the accusations which, too frequently on good grounds, his Excellency brings forward against General Vitalis.

The article in question is also of interest in another respect. It acknowledges the existence of a certain amount of discord between the Russian and Bulgarian officers of the militia, and urges them to unite in a common cause against the foreign element which has been introduced into their midst.

The object of the article is evidently to frighten the Governor-General into non-acquiescence with the plan of reorganization prepared by General Dickson and M. de Torcy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 217.

Extract from the "Maritza."

(Traduction.)

Philippopoli, le $\frac{18}{30}$ Juin, 1879.

SUR LA MILICE.—Et en vérité à peine avons nous besoin de faire observer combien cette question est opportune, importante, et vitale. Ce n'est point au point de vue de son existence, mais encore des garanties que la Roumélie Orientale peut avoir pour elle. Mais disons d'abord que dans notre armée il n'y a pas actuellement de commandement supérieur; nous ne voulons pas dire en cela que nous n'avons pas de Chef d'Etat-Major ou d'officiers. Nous avons tout cela, grâce à Dieu. Mais que font ces officiers? Comment s'entendent-ils entre eux? Et d'un autre côté, quelle est la situation des soldats et que pensent-ils?

A la première question nous répondrons que les Chefs de notre armée ne font rien; en d'autres termes, ils détruisent aujourd'hui ce qu'ils ont fait hier.

Pour confirmer ce que nous avançons nous rappelerons que l'Etat-Major change le soir les nominations faites le matin et cela non pas une seule fois. Il y a des officiers qui depuis le nouveau régime jusqu'à ce jour ont passé par plusieurs services sans avoir eu le temps, ni la possibilité, de remplir leurs fonctions même pour un laps de temps restreint.

Le temps se passe à donner et à retirer les postes, et jusqu'à ce qu'un officier ait le temps de prendre le service de son prédécesseur, il reçoit l'ordre de le passer à son successeur, et ainsi de suite. De ce changement de places et de fonctions, il ne sort que le spectacle que nous avons le malheur de contempler; c'est-à-dire, un chaos dans lequel, s'il y a quelques éléments qui commandent ce sont, sans le moindre doute, les désordres, les intrigues, les fourberies et de honteuses lenteurs qui ne conviennent ni à l'uniforme ni à l'epée de leurs auteurs. Si ces messieurs n'ont ni amour-propre, ni dignité personnelle, n'ont-ils au moins l'estime de leur noble et honorable uniforme. Hélas! nous parlons de l'uniforme et nous oublions que plusieurs étrangers incorporés et des civils Bulgares n'ont jamais eu l'occasion jusqu'à ce jour d'apprendre et de connaître la sainteté de l'uniforme.

Les intrigues dont nous parlons ci-dessus proviennent de la sottise; ou elles ont un but. Nous, nous avons le devoir d'aviser nos officiers et, quand nous disons nos officiers, nous parlons des Russes et des Bulgares; nous avons, disons-nous, le devoir de les aviser de se garder de ces intrigues; qu'ils ne croient pas aux bruits répandus exprès par des personnes malveillantes. Par exemple, on leur a dit que la Direction ne voulait ni Russes, ni Bulgares, dans son Etat-Major; au contraire, nous apprenons que Direction a appuyé pour que les officiers d'Etat-Major fussent pris parmi ceux d'entre les officiers de la milice qui servent depuis le commencement, qui l'ont, pour ainsi dire, organisée, et qui ont plus à cœur son avancement que les personnes étrangères, ignorantes non-seulement de sa langue, mais encore de ses mœurs, de ses coutumes, et de son caractère, et qui n'ont pas la moindre capacité.

Pour convaincre messieurs les officiers Bulgares de la vérité de nos paroles, nous leur rappelerons le premier projet de la formation de l'Etat-Major, projet préparé par la Direction à la tête de laquelle se distinguait l'habile et sympathique M. le Major Popoff.

Nous pensons ne pas nous tromper en rappelant à messieurs les officiers que ce projet leur avait été soumis, et que presque tous s'en étaient montrés satisfaits. Qu'est-il donc arrivé depuis? . . . .

D'un autre côté des bruits malveillants se répandent dans un but de division entre les officiers Russes et Bulgares de la milice. Les personnes légères d'esprit peuvent croire à ces choses, mais nous, nous ne pouvons nous figurer qu'un officier Bulgare ou Russe puisse se laisser entraîner ou tromper par ces sottes intrigues, pour que cette division et cette jalousie subsistent entre des frères officiers qui servent dans la même armée et dans un même but. Qu'ils soient donc prudents désormais sur ces bruits et qu'ils ne se laissent pas entraîner dans ces partis qui sont, surtout maintenant, dangereux pour la formation et à l'existence de cette milice—pourquoi les sacrifices sont si precieux!

En conséquence qu'ils se lient par de forts liens d'amitié et de confiance.

Vient ensuite la non-intelligence. Les Chefs supérieurs de l'armée étant étrangers, ne savent pas notre langue et nos officiers ne savent pas la leur. C'est pourquoi il leur faut des interprètes.

Nous ferons observer à l'Etat Major que ces interprètes pourraient très-bien être des civils, en les payant convenablement; pourquoi donc en faire des officiers et leur

donner un grade militaire, quand ils n'ont pas servi dans l'armée, ni suivi les cours de l'école militaire. Cette manière d'agir n'attriste-t-elle pas ceux d'entre les officers qui ont servi dix ans pour obtenir ces grades? Et comment peuvent-ils être satisfaits quand ils voient que Stoïan hier est Capitaine Stoïan aujourd'hui, et fait resonner son sabre plus fort et plus promptement que ces mêmes officiers qui se sont vaillamment battus contre les armées entières Turques à Eski-Zagra, Chipka, &c.? Non-seulement que ces officiers ne font pas plaisir, non-seulement que la population est soulevée, mais l'ombre de ceux qui sont morts en héros sur les glorieux champs de Mars se rient naïvement de ces récompenses que gagnent les compagnons qui leur ont survécu.

Et les soldats? Ces malheureux sont dans un état pénible, et si cela continue ainsi, cet état sera impossible. Les soldats peuvent à peine juger l'ordre de l'administration militaire passée et quand ils le comparent avec celui de la présente, ne se découragent-ils pas? et les faibles d'entre eux ne désirent-ils pas s'en retourner dans leurs foyers? Il n'y a aucun doute que la discipline ne soit relâchée, surtout après certaines scènes qui ont eu lieu depuis peu de temps. Et les malades effrayent leurs docteurs, disant qu'ils fuiront pour se faire soigner chez eux. Que cet état de choses continue encore quelque temps de la sorte et nous verrons bientôt la démoralisation et l'anarchie dans notre armée.

Nous apprenons que par suite de ce triste commencement les habitants de la Roumélie Orientale ont remis une requête au Gouvernement pour demander la fin de ce désordre et de cet interrègne. Nous ignorons ce qu'a répondu le Gouvernement, mais nous joignant à la nation, nous prions le Gouvernement de prendre des mesures rédemptrices pour l'organisation de la milice.

Maintenant c'est le dernier moment où elle pourra s'organiser, si elle le peut. Que le Gouvernement ne laisse échapper cette occasion, mais qu'unis et d'un commun accord, ils usent de toute l'énergie possible pour détruire le mal. La responsabilité qui est grande leur incombe.

No. 218.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 36.)

Philippopolis, July 4, 1879.

My Lord,

I CALLED upon Aleko Pasha yesterday, at his country residence, in order to expostulate with him for having broken the promise which he had made to General Dickson and M. de Torey, as well as to myself, in the matter of the signature of the Ordinances which those officers had drawn up as bases for the reorganization of the local militia and the establishment of an adequate force of gendarmerie.

His Excellency had stated yesterday to General Vitalis, when the Ordinances were presented by him for signature, that he could not sign them without studying their contents, but when I remonstrated and urged the necessity of his signing this morning, he replied very vehemently that he would sign nothing that was submitted to him by General Vitalis, with whom indeed he would have nothing more to do.

The Governor-General alleged that General Vitalis had that day broken the law and infringed his Excellency's prerogative by swearing in a number of "officers" into the gendarmerie, before the Ordinance for the formation of that corps had been signed.

I was fortunately able to refute that statement, as the General had only sworn in about 100 men.

I acknowledged that there was a certain amount of informality in such a proceeding, but the urgency of establishing a corps of gendarmerie was such that General Vitalis, I said, might well be excused, considering, moreover, that it was the Governor-General who had failed to carry out his part of the arrangements according to agreement, and that the men had been mustered over night in anticipation of the promised signature of the Ordinances.

After a long debate, in which I represented to him the gravity of the responsibility which he would assume if he delayed any longer to legalize the measures which General Dickson and M. de Torey had concerted, Aleko Pasha gave me a formal promise that he would go into town to-morrow, sign the Ordinances, and order a credit to be opened for the organization of the gendarmerie.

At the same time, he said he was determined to get rid of General Vitalis, and that much as he disliked the Russians, he would even prefer to see a Russian officer in command of the local forces.

I told him, in as forcible language as courtesy would permit me to employ, that such an alternative was entirely out of the question, and that other Powers as well as the Porte would take care that no Russian or Bulgarian officer was placed in a superior command.

I then proceeded to hold equally strong language on the subject of his acts in general, tending, as they were, to convert Eastern Roumelia into a Southern Bulgaria. Whatever might be his Excellency's appreciation of the strength and resources of the Government which he represented, I told him that he might be certain that England and other allied Powers would not long remain silent spectators of the course which he was pursuing, and that means would undoubtedly be found for imposing a strict observance of the spirit and letter of the Treaty of Berlin, and of the Organic Statute of Eastern Roumelia.

As usual, the Governor-General maintained that he was carrying out the letter of the Organic Statute in respect to the rights of the majority of the population, and again I explained that Article 21 required him to take the predominance of any one race into consideration only to the extent of giving to the larger ethnographical group a proportionate share in the work of administration, without neglecting, as his Excellency had done, the right of minorities to a commensurate participation in the public service.

All the Commissioners, I said, with the exception, for obvious reasons, of the Russian Commissioner, held that view, and were ready to make a declaration to that effect; but if they should much longer be prevented from doing so, certain Governments, and that in particular which I represented, would certainly not allow to pass unnoticed what they considered to be a violation of the Organic Statute—a violation for which Article 46 of the Statute provided a remedy by specifying the circumstances under which the Governor-General could be made amenable to a High Court.

Aleko Pasha meekly replied that he desired nothing better than such an authoritative interpretation of Article 21 as would enable him to follow a different course, but that, so long as he had only the letter of the law before him, he could but take into consideration the rights of the Bulgarian majority.

In respect to my observation that he had apparently forgotten the existence of nearly 200,000 Mussulmans who had a right to be speedily reinstated in the possession of the property from which they had been driven, his Excellency said it would be time enough on their return to Eastern Roumelia to take their political rights into consideration.

He added that, owing to the influence which he had acquired with the Bulgarian party, he had recently been enabled to effect the repatriation of thirty Turkish families to Philippopolis, and that he could do a great deal more in the same direction by cultivating the goodwill of the Bulgarian majority, on whom, in the absence of troops on which he could rely, he had entirely to depend.

In this, I rejoined, that I did not share his apprehensions as to the readiness or desire of the Bulgarian population to resist by force of arms the faithful application of the Organic Statute, and that an exhibition of moral courage would, in my opinion, be perfectly sufficient for that purpose. His Excellency, I added, was simply in the hands of men who imposed upon him their interested views under threats, which made him believe that the non-adoption of those views would require the aid of an armed force, and lead to bloodshed.

As the Governor-General denied that he was acting under the influence of the Bulgarian members of his Privy Council, I told him that I knew as a fact that those members, with the Secretary-General at their head, formed a Cabal, held counsel frequently together, to the exclusion of M. Schmidt, and often performed acts which were not submitted openly to the Council.

Aleko Pasha indignantly denied this assertion, requested me to prove it, and insisted that nothing was done without his knowledge.

I therefore instanced the facts that General Stolipine's communication about the so-called Turkish brigands whom he had caused to be tried by Court-Martial on the 25th May with Zeki had only been casually brought to the knowledge of the full Council, and that the Secretary-General had taken upon himself, without consulting the Council, to reply to General Stolipine in the matter of another communication respecting the recognition of the Sultan's rights in the town of Kotel. That very morning, also, a Council had been held to which General Vitalis had not been summoned.

His Excellency replied that he had himself dealt with the case of the Turkish brigands by referring it to the Porte; that as regards the Secretary-General's reply to General Stolipine requesting him to maintain the *statu quo* at Kotel, he had severely blamed M. Christovich for having made such an arrangement without his knowledge; and that, concerning the Council held that morning, it had been hastily summoned for the special purpose of considering a communication which had been received from the Porte in respect to the nomination of Prefects.

I pointed out to the Governor-General that his admissions fully proved my allegation that the proceedings of the Council were extremely irregular, and were, in fact, entirely directed by his Bulgarian nominees, who practically represented the so-called "National Committee."

I then asked him how he could explain the fact that M. Schmidt's nomination to the post of Director of Finance had not been submitted to the confirmation of the Porte, along with the other nominations, thereby rendering all the acts of M. Schmidt illegal, and his position more than equivocal?

The Governor-General having at first replied that M. Schmidt's nomination in an "order of the day" was sufficient authority for the fulfilment of the duties of Director of Finance, I pointed out that such a nomination imparted no authority whatever unless it was accompanied, under the terms of the Statute, by a Report to the Ottoman Government requesting confirmation of the appointment. His Excellency then said that he had adopted the latter course by including in the cyphered telegram reporting the nomination of Directors the name of M. Schmidt, but that he had since learnt that his name had been omitted by a telegraphic error, the telegraph being, as I was aware, in the hands of the Russians, for whose acts he could not be responsible.

When, however, I observed to him that, in order to omit the name of M. Schmidt, the Russian telegraph clerk must have had a knowledge of his Excellency's cypher, Aleko Pasha at first said that he did not know how this could have occurred; and later, after I had changed the subject of our conversation, he stated to me that the telegram had been sent *en clair*.

On the strength of these discrepant and evidently untruthful statements, I told the Governor-General that such an explanation was utterly inadmissible, and that if he maintained it he would only be doing justice to himself by instituting a formal inquiry into the conduct of the Russian telegraph clerk whom he accused of having falsified so important a despatch.

Aleko Pasha said he would certainly do so, but that in the meanwhile he would at once repeat to the Porte his request for the confirmation of the nomination of M. Schmidt.

After much more conversation, in which I did my best to impress upon the Governor-General that his acts were being narrowly watched and recorded, not only by the Porte, but also by the British Government and certain other Powers equally interested in maintaining inviolably the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin, we separated on very good terms, his Excellency professing his anxiety to do what was right, and thanking me for my earnest and outspoken advice, while I asked him to excuse the plainness of the language I had used in the furtherance of a common interest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 219.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July 15.*)

(No. 37. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, July 4, 1879.*

I HAD a long conversation a few days ago with Baron de Ring and the Turkish Commissioners on the subject of the functions and powers of the European Commission, more especially in connection with the question which has been submitted to it by the Governor-General, as reported in my despatch No. 23, of the 30th ultimo.

The French Commissioner stated that his instructions would enable him to take part in the discussion of that question and even to give an opinion upon it, but that as the opinion or advice of the Commission would not be binding on the Governor-General, he would abstain from giving a vote upon it.

I argued with Baron de Ring that, in addition to the undesirability of interfering arbitrarily with the functions of a Governor-General responsible to the Sultan for the manner in which he conducted the administration of the province (section 45 of the Statute), neither the Treaty of Berlin, nor the Organic Statute, had made provision for the prolongation of the powers of the Commission in Eastern Roumelia beyond the date of the completion, or perhaps promulgation, of the Organic Statute.

It would, therefore, require a new international compact in order to invest the Commission, in the present stage of its existence, with powers such as the French and Russian Governments appeared to seek, and which were indeed in excess of those delegated to the Permanent Commission to be hereafter named by the Provincial Assembly.

Moreover, the Governor-General is legally powerless without his Council in matters relating to the administration of the province, and, therefore, even if the Governor-General could be induced to accept as binding the advice of the Commission, whether sought or unsought, his Council might very properly object to such an infringement of their prerogative of advising the Governor-General, who on the other hand might say, with much force, that he had accepted office under the terms of the Organic Statute.

At the same time, it seems to me that the means of enforcing the decisions of even a majority of the Commission are practically available, for the Ambassadors of the Great Powers at Constantinople representing the views of such a majority, or even of a certain group of Powers deeply interested in the support of the Ottoman Empire in Europe, would surely, by their representations, invest the Porte with sufficient moral power for the imposition of these views on the Governor-General, either under threat of his removal, or under menace of the immediate execution of the Treaty of Berlin, as regards the occupation of the Balkans by Turkish troops.

M. de Ring observed that the dismissal of the Governor-General would require the assent of all the Signatory Powers, and that Russia would certainly withhold that assent.

As regards the occupation of the Balkans, M. de Ring asserted that the Turkish army had "melted away," and that the Porte had only a force of 50,000 men between Constantinople and the Tchataldja lines.

Moreover, he doubted whether public opinion in England would tolerate the recurrence of the outrages of 1876, that would inevitably ensue from the Turkish troops being placed in any kind of contact with the Bulgarian population of this province.

I replied that if, according to his argument, the Porte had practically not the means of imposing upon the Governor-General the faithful execution of the Treaty of Berlin and the Organic Statute, it appeared all the more illogical to expect that the Commission should be invested with such a power.

But I refused to share in Baron de Ring's view as to the helplessness of the Porte against a contumacious Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia, even supposing that it might in reality be impossible or undesirable to carry out the threat of occupying the Balkans.

Although the Treaty of Berlin stipulates that the Governor-General shall be named for five years with the assent of the Powers, yet Article 46 of the Organic Statute provides for his trial by a High Court on a charge of "high treason, violation of the Organic Statute, &c."

It is true that his condemnation will require the vote of one of the members of the Court appointed by the Provincial Assembly, and that it would be found difficult to obtain the adhesion of that member to the views of the six Judges appointed by the Porte; but if the grounds of the Governor-General's impeachment were proved to be substantial and morally conclusive, it would surely be no more difficult, than in the case of Egypt, for certain Powers to insist on his dismissal, notwithstanding the opposition of Russia, which is certainly not likely, particularly after the evacuation of the province, to undertake a new war in such a cause.

It is also more than probable that a man of the character of the present Governor-General would prefer to resign rather than to face a trial and its consequences.

From this point of view, I think that even within the limits of the powers with which the Commissioners, excepting those of France and Russia, are at present invested, the decision of the majority of the Commission, or those (even of a minority) representing the Powers most interested in maintaining the exact observance of the Treaty of Berlin and the Organic Statute, could or should be made practically obligatory on the Governor-General.

It therefore appears most essential that the Commission should take cognisance of, and place in record, every instance in which the Governor-General shall have departed from the letter or spirit of those international acts, thereby strengthening the hands of the Porte and those of certain other Powers in the adoption of such a course as may be found absolutely necessary in order to prevent the province of Eastern Roumelia from being converted practically into a "Southern Bulgaria."

My Austrian colleague is, on the other hand, of opinion that the duty of recording any departure from the letter and spirit of the Treaty of Berlin and Organic Statute may be delegated to Consular representatives; but I venture to submit that the sporadic and independent reports of such representatives would fail to supply that ground for action at Constantinople which the Commission, acting as an international body, is so eminently capable to afford.

Hitherto the tendency of most of the acts of the Governor-General has been in the direction of "Bulgarising" this province, either unconsciously, or under a stimulus of fear produced by the intrigues of the National Committee, acting in conjunction with Russian agitators. The silence of the Commission, during the prosecution of such a policy, may hereafter be cited as a proof of its acquiescence with the proceedings of the Governor-General, and it therefore appears to be most important to obtain, if possible, the speedy modification of the instructions given to the French and Russian Commissioners to an extent that will allow the latter to discuss and vote upon any subject brought before the Commission with reference to the interpretation and application of the Organic Statute, without insisting that such a vote shall be obligatory on the Governor-General.

From the language held by Baron de Ring, it seems probable that the French Government will yield on the latter point, and that if the Government of Russia should refuse to modify its instructions to Prince Tzeretelew to a similar extent, he might, at all events, be ordered to admit the making of communications by individual Commissioners. These would result in the recording of declarations, which would be of almost equal service as a vote. In any case, it is evident from the proceedings at the last meeting of the Commission, and from the Circular addressed by its temporary President, that, unless the Russian Commissioner is empowered to listen to such communications, the functions of the Commission will practically be suspended as regards its corporate supervision over the application of the Organic Statute.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 220.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 41.) *Philippopolis, July 5, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith the translation of a letter published yesterday in the "Maritza," and which was addressed by General Stolipine on the 26th ultimo to the Bulgarian Exarch of Philippopolis.

The letter in question accompanied the gift of Archiepiscopal vestments and of a chalice presented by the 9th Army Corps and the "Civil Administration" to "Southern Bulgaria."

Your Lordship will observe that the General in command of a corps d'armée of a Sovereign who was party to the Treaty of Berlin, ostentatiously ignores the fact that this province has been solemnly constituted into an "Eastern Roumelia."

The Exarch, in his reply, replete with adulation, likewise refers to this province as "Southern Bulgaria."

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 220.

General Stolipine to the Bulgarian Exarch of Philippopolis.

(Translation.)

Your Beatitude! *Sliwno, June 14/26, 1879.*

THE 9th Corps was one of the first to enter Northern Bulgaria, and will be the last to leave Southern Bulgaria.

The blood that has been shed, the labours that have been endured, the joys, sorrows, and hopes that have been shared, cement the bonds that unite us with our Bulgarian brethren.

In commemoration of those holy bonds we have prepared vestments for your Beatitude, and we pray that when robed in them you will remember us, sinners, in your prayers to the Almighty.

We have also prepared a chalice which will prove that our Bulgarian brethren, in partaking from it of the Body and Blood of Christ, are united in the same Orthodox rites.

From the highest ranks in the army and Civil Administration to the last soldier, all have contributed their mite to the preparation of this humble memorial of our union with our brethren of Southern Bulgaria; and presenting the same through your Beatitude to the country with which we are related, we commit ourselves to your Archiepiscopal prayers.

In the name of the *personnel* of the 9th Corps, and of the Civil Administration,

(Signed) ARCADIUS STOLIPINE,
Commander of the Corps, and First Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia.

Certified to be a correct copy of the original.
(Signed) GOGLANOFF, *Major-General,*
Commanding 5th Infantry Division.

No. 221.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 42.) *Philippopolis, July 5, 1879.*

My Lord,

I CALLED upon Baron de Ring this afternoon with General Dickson, to take counsel as to the steps that should be taken in the event of the Governor-General refusing, as we were informed he would do, to confirm the nomination of officers proposed by General Vitalis for service in the militia and gendarmerie.

During the discussion of this question, General Vitalis returned from the Council and informed us that Aleko Pasha had absolutely refused to confirm his nominations, and had submitted for his consideration drafts of three orders of the day in the Bulgarian language relating to the appointment of those officers.

On comparing those drafts with the lists drawn up by General Vitalis, we were enabled to establish the fact that the occult influences which exercise so much power on Aleko Pasha had succeeded in altering entirely the distribution of the officers named in the list of General Vitalis.

The General, as an instance was, according to the drafts handed to him by the Governor-General, deprived of the services of the Aide-de-camp whom he had selected, while the three Frenchmen whom he had engaged on his staff in an administrative capacity were replaced by Bulgarian graduates of the military college of Sofia.

In addition to all these changes, the lists which General Vitalis received at the Council table included the names of a Captain Rozeff, the well-known coadjutor and Chief of the Staff of Colonel Kessiakoff, and of a Captain Block, a Russian officer whom General Vitalis had refused to retain in the militia on the ground that he had publicly disgraced himself a few weeks ago by heading, in a state of inebriety, a mob which had carried him through the streets of Philippopolis, and amused itself by tearing off and destroying the fezes of Mussulmans.

Baron de Ring gave way to much indignation, and declared that in such circumstances he would advise his Government to insist on the immediate occupation of the province by Turkish or foreign troops, and, as I had understood that the promise of the Governor-General to sign all the Ordinances relating to the reorganization of the

militia and establishment of the gendarmerie included the confirmation of the officers whom General Vitalis had selected, I proceeded to the konak with General Dickson, in order to expostulate with the Governor-General.

The First French Commissioner was suffering from an illness which would not permit him to leave the house, and M. de Coutouly being absent, M. de Ring was unable to accompany us, and he therefore requested me to speak in his name, as well as in my own, to Aleko Pasha.

Finding the Governor-General at the konak, I told him that I had come to ask why he had failed to fulfil the formal promise which he had given me the night before last, by refusing to confirm the nominations submitted to him by General Vitalis, and I pointed out to him that the Ordinances or Decrees which he had signed were of no avail without the appointment of officers. His Excellency assumed a high tone, and declared that he would not confirm the appointment of foreigners to places which ought to be filled by "Roumelians," and that nothing would induce him to sign the Decrees in question, as drawn up by General Vitalis.

Knowing the character of the man whom I was addressing, I assumed an equally high tone, and told him that, as his refusal, under certain influences, would have the effect of leaving the country for some time without a lawfully constituted militia and gendarmerie, I should consider it my duty, as British Commissioner, to report to my Government that, in my opinion, his conduct in this and other matters, simply bore a character of disaffection towards the person of the Sovereign whom he represented. I added that the time had come when he must choose between the advice of General Stolipine (who had the day before yesterday sent an Aide-de-camp to him with instructions on the very subject of those nominations) and the advice of the great Powers, who were determined to see the Treaty of Berlin faithfully executed.

A very warm discussion ensued, in which Aleko Pasha declared that he had imposed no lists of officers on General Vitalis, but had merely given him some names of Roumelian officers fitted for the posts which General Vitalis proposed to fill with "French adventurers."

General Dickson and I were able to refute this specious statement, for we had, together with Baron de Ring and M. de Torcy, compared the Bulgarian drafts and found that the officers on General Vitalis' list had been redistributed and changed as above stated.

But this the Governor-General continued to deny, and ultimately called in M. Christovicz to support him in that denial.

Aided by General Dickson, I then endeavoured to convince Aleko Pasha that, by refusing to adopt the lists drawn up by General Vitalis, he would, in the event of the Bulgarian draft being adopted, relieve his Commander-in-chief of all responsibility, in the event of the military organization proving defective, and assume that responsibility himself.

If officers were imposed on General Vitalis, in whom the latter had no confidence, he would simply protest and give notice both to his Excellency, and, perhaps, to the Commission, that he would not consider himself responsible for the peace and security of the province.

He might also take another course, that of referring the dispute between himself and the Governor-General to the Sultan, who had delegated the power of confirming officers up to the rank of captain to his personal representative in Eastern Roumelia, not to the Council of Directors, from which the opposition to the arrangements of General Vitalis proceeded, under inspirations which were well known both to the British and French Governments.

In any case, the Governor-General would be held responsible for the delay which would ensue, and the result might possibly be the acceleration of a state of things which would involve a deplorable contingency, that of calling in Turkish troops for the maintenance of order.

It transpired in the heat of debate that General Stolipine had, in reality, sent a list of officers, to be employed in the militia and gendarmerie, to Aleko Pasha; who, however, protested that he had taken no notice of that list.

The Governor-General also let out that the drafts which we had seen had been drawn up by "Roumelian officers."

On obtaining this admission, General Dickson pointed out to Aleko Pasha, as a military officer, that, if he had received the lists from such a source, his proper course would have been to destroy them, and to cause the officers who had imposed them upon him to be punished.

I told him that I knew, as a matter of fact, that a Council composed of four

disaffected officers had been instituted for the purpose of upsetting the arrangements of General Vitalis.

Aleko Pasha denied all knowledge of this, and fell back upon his original declaration that he knew nothing about the drafts of which we had spoken.

In fact his statements were a tissue of evident prevarications and mis-representations, and we, therefore, did not hesitate to show him that he had failed to impose on our credulity.

When I spoke of Russian influences in the matter of the appointments which he insisted on making, he affirmed that Prince Tzeretelew had never spoken to him on that subject; but I have since learned from my Austrian colleague that he had actually complained to him of the pressure which had been put upon him in this respect by the Russian Consul-General.

I need not weary your Lordship with further details of the animated conversation which General Dickson and myself have this day had with the Governor-General and with M. Christovitch.

I must, however, add that we took care to decline any responsibility as to the character of the officers named on the sole responsibility of General Vitalis, against whom, we argued, the Governor-General would have reasonable ground of complaint if the officers thus selected proved inefficient or unworthy of the posts for which they had been recommended.

Notwithstanding the stormy nature of this interview, we separated on friendly terms, with mutual protestations of goodwill; and, a few hours later, Aleko Pasha and the Acting Director of Public Works called upon General Dickson with the evident object of once more endeavouring to extract from him a promise, that General Vitalis would be replaced by Captain de Torcy, much as they would both undoubtedly prefer the appointment of a Russian or Bulgarian officer to the command of the local militia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 222.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 44.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, July 5, 1879.*

GENERAL DICKSON and Captain de Torcy return to-morrow morning to Constantinople, after having accomplished everything that was practically possible for the direction of reorganizing the local militia, and establishing an adequate force of gendarmerie.

The Report which General Dickson will make will place your Lordship in possession of the details of the good work that has been done, and I have therefore only to express my firm conviction that, without the aid which General Vitalis has thus received, the department over which that officer presides could not have been extricated from the state of chaos in which it was found by General Dickson and M. de Torcy.

It now depends upon the Governor-General to give full effect to the measures which have been concerted, with the view of organizing the forces, which, under the terms of the Organic Statute, are intended for the preservation of order and tranquillity in this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 223.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 576.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 1, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a letter addressed to me by the Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople, M. Narses, to which I have not thought it necessary to send a reply. His Beatitude complains that Her Majesty's Government has named a

Consul to Kurdistan instead of to Armenia, which, he contends, is the proper name of the district over which Major Trotter's Consular jurisdiction extends. A paragraph, inserted in the local newspaper, the "Phare de Bosphore," which is inclosed, makes the same complaint, and declares that his Beatitude has "energetically protested to me against this erroneous denomination."

I have on several occasions brought to your Lordship's notice the attempt which is now being made to create an "Armenia" in Asiatic Turkey, which Europe, or Russia, is to form into an autonomous province, and ultimately into an independent State. It cannot be expected that the Porte will do anything to encourage this attempt after the experience it has had in European Turkey. It recognizes no such province, or vilayet, as "Armenia," a name unknown to it, and would not, of course, give an exequatur to a Consul in the terms required by the Patriarch. We might as well ask for an exequatur for "Judæa." However, I have warned the Porte, over and over again, that unless it speedily introduces the reforms, to which it has pledged itself, in the Asiatic dominions of the Sultan, and can assure the protection and the just and equal government of these populations, the question of an Armenian nationality, and even of other nationalities, may be raised, which will, probably, end by further diminishing the authority and territories of His Majesty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 223.

Monsignor Nercès to Sir A. H. Layard.

Le 1er Juillet, 1879.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

J'AI l'honneur de vous accuser réception de la lettre que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser en date du 27 Juin dernier.

Je sens le besoin de remercier encore une fois votre Excellence de la protection énergique qu'elle veut bien accorder à la malheureuse population de Zeytouni. Puisse cette protection les sauver des nouveaux malheurs qui semblent les attendre à la suite des mesures prises par les Commissaires; puisse-t-elle s'étendre à tous mes nationaux, à ceux surtout qui sont dans la Haute Arménie! Il est si dur pour ceux que se trouvent sur la terre arrosée du sang et de la sueur de leurs ancêtres, de se sentir abandonnés et ouvertement sacrifiés aux Kurdes. Ils ont trop souffert pour qu'il ne leur soit pas permis d'être susceptibles au plus haut point pour tout ce qui touche leur situation vis-à-vis ces hordes qui, sans avoir un nom dans l'histoire, sans aucun lien avec le sol qu'ils habitent accidentellement, ne sont connus du monde politique que par la longue traînée de sang qui s'attache à leurs pas. Ainsi ai-je raison de croire qu'il y a erreur manifeste dans la manière dont les journaux ont annoncé la nomination du Consul Anglais à Erzéroum; en effet, Erzéroum, comme Van, Mouch et Kharpert sont compris dans l'Arménie, et on ne saurait admettre qu'on puisse changer le nom de l'Arménie en Kurdistan. Abstraction faite de ce changement de nom qui a froissé les plus chers sentiments des Arméniens et qui les a douloureusement affectés, mais qui, je le répète ne peut être que le résultat d'une erreur, le fait de la nomination de plusieurs Consuls Anglais en Arménie est en lui-même un premier indice de protection et un premier gage de l'amélioration de leur sort; et à ce titre il me rend particulièrement reconnaissant et heureux, parce que je considère que tout ce qui peut donner aux Arméniens les sentiments qu'ils sont protégés est de nature à éviter bien des complications.

Je prie, &c.
Patriarche Démissionnaire,
(Signé) Archevêque NERCÈS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 223.

Extrait from the "Phare du Bosphore" of July 1, 1879.

ON sait que le Gouvernement Anglais a désigné dernièrement sous le nom de Kurdistan les provinces qui composent l'Arménie proprement dite. Nous apprenons que sa Beatitude le Patriarche Arménien a énergiquement protesté contre cette dénomination erronée.

No. 224.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 580.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 4*, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship a despatch which I have received, under Flying Seal, from Major Gordon, relative to the dispatch of a survey party into the Rhodope districts. Major Gordon having requested me to ask the Turkish authorities to furnish the necessary escort for this party, I have communicated with the Porte on the subject, and am informed that the requisite orders have been sent to the Vali of Adrianople and to the Turkish Commissioner.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 225.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 586.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 5*, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Consul-General Michell forwarding copy of a petition which has been handed to Aleko Pasha by a deputation of the leading Mussulmans of Philippopolis praying for the dismissal of Hadji Ismaïl Bey, a member of the Lower Court of Appeal.

I have given this petition to Caratheodory Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 225.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 184.)
Sir, *Philippopolis, June 28*, 1879.

THE petition of which I inclose a copy, and of which I have likewise the honour to forward herewith a translation, was handed to Aleko Pasha three days ago by a deputation of the leading Turks. The signatories, 167 in number, pray for the dismissal of Hadji Ismaïl Bey, a Turkish Notable, who, during the Russo-Bulgarian Administration, was appointed a member of the Lower Court of Appeal, and has hitherto been the only Mussulman who has been admitted to a share in the local administration of justice.

Hadji Ismaïl Bey received this appointment shortly after the trial of Hadjis Arif and Shaban Aghas, whose condemnation to death was principally founded on his evidence, and he has since rendered himself extremely unpopular with his co-religionists, by whom he is accused of various acts of illegality and oppression towards members of his own community.

He is charged with having procured the release of the Bulgarians who committed outrages on Turkish women in the village of Teholluk last winter, and who were imprisoned on the representations made by Sir Henry Drummond Wolff; and it is certain that he recently called up the male relatives of those women, and threatened them with his vengeance if they persisted in their prosecution of the Bulgarians in question.

In handing this petition to Aleko Pasha, who seemed disinclined to give any effect to it, the Turkish deputation declared that, in the event of Hadji Ismaïl Bey being maintained in office, they would be compelled to emigrate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 225.

Petition.

(Translation.)

THE member of the Temiz-i-Houkouk Tribunal (the Honorable Hadji Ismail Bey), who can neither read nor write, and is at the same time given to intrigue and double-dealing, has also shown symptoms of mental alienation, and he always seeks to injure those among our community against whom he entertains private motives of animosity; at the same time, he has a foul tongue, abusing and insulting the people who come in contact with him; upon those whom he dislikes he has begun to revenge himself by trampling upon their rights. He has, moreover, the weakness of striving to the end that none other in his community should rise to equal power with himself, and, if any such man appear, he endeavours, by every kind of means, to suppress and ruin him.

There are numberless other causes of complaint against Hadji Ismail Bey; but the above-stated facts are abundantly proved and are known to all the inhabitants of this town. On account of these faults of his he was never at any time during the former (Turkish) Administration admitted to a share in the management either of the affairs of the State or of the townspeople.

But now, finding our community reduced to emptiness, he has contrived by his cunning to obtain a footing in the Tribunal of the Temiz-i-Houkouk.

Apart from the above-mentioned shortcomings of Ismail Bey, we have no confidence in him whatever. We pray, therefore, that he may, as before, be excluded from the affairs both of the State and of the townspeople; and that you will order his dismissal and put in his place some honest and capable man. The whole of our community prays that you will listen to our demands and take steps in consequence.

(Follow the Seals of 107 of the leading Turks.)

No. 226.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 587.)

Therapia, July 5, 1879.

My Lord,

PRINCE ALEXANDER of Battenberg, the Prince-elect of Bulgaria, arrived here this morning, and, as it had been previously arranged, proceeded at once to the Palace, where he was received in audience by the Sultan. I understand that it is not the etiquette to go through any ceremony of investiture on these occasions. The Berat will be sent after His Highness according to precedent.

It had been agreed between the heads of missions that we should each send our chief interpreter on board the Russian vessel-of-war which brought the Prince to Constantinople, to welcome and congratulate His Highness in our names, as had been done on the occasion of the visits of the Princes of Servia and Roumania to their Suzerain. Sir A. Sandison accordingly waited upon His Highness with his colleagues, and delivered a complimentary message to him from me, to which he received a very warm and friendly reply.

Prince Alexander left again in the afternoon for Varna. His visit here has passed off exceedingly well, and the general opinion seems to be that the arrangements made for him to see the Sultan and to continue his journey at once were wise and judicious, and avoided any risk of a demonstration which might have led to regrettable consequences.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 227.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 588. Confidential.)

Therapia, July 6, 1879.

My Lord,

THE Grand Vizier and Caratheodory Pasha are exceedingly well satisfied with the result of Prince Alexander of Battenberg's visit. His Highness appears to have made a most favourable impression upon them and upon the Sultan. Hairedin Pasha tells me that he was much struck with His Highness' evident sincerity. He did not speak in set or pre-arranged phrases, but as a man of heart ("un homme de cœur"). The Sultan, although somewhat nervous, conversed freely and in a very friendly manner with the Prince. His Majesty expressed himself afterwards as very much pleased with the frank and earnest assurances that he had received from His Highness of his intention to protect the lives and property, to secure the rights, and to assist in the return to their homes of the unfortunate Mussulman population, on whose behalf His Majesty spoke very warmly to Prince Alexander.

His Highness very modestly observed to the Sultan that he had never aspired to be Prince of Bulgaria, and that it would, perhaps, have been better for his own peace and happiness had he continued in his previous position, which was in every way agreeable and suitable to him; but, having been elected, he considered, after mature reflection, that it was his duty to accept the very difficult and onerous task placed upon him, not because he had either the ability or the experience required for the proper discharge of his responsible duties, but because he felt that his feelings would prompt him to govern justly and impartially, to make no distinction between races or creeds, but to seek to unite and reconcile all those placed under his rule as brothers, and to endeavour to allay and remove the angry passions which had been caused by the war. In carrying out these intentions to the best of his ability and conscientiously, he looked forward to the support of the Sultan. This support, His Majesty assured him, he would at all times receive.

Such, Hairedin Pasha informed me, was the substance of the conversation which took place at the audience between His Majesty and Prince Alexander. Subsequent to it the Prince telegraphed to the Queen that he had fulfilled the promise that he had given to Her Majesty at Balmoral. As it is believed here that the promise alluded to was that His Highness would assure the Sultan of his determination to govern justly and impartially, and to protect the Mussulman population, the knowledge that His Highness had sent this telegram has produced a very good effect, as it is considered a proof of the interest which the Queen takes in the Turkish population, and in the good and equal government of the Sultan's subjects.

The Prince conveyed to the Sultan a very friendly message from the Queen, which very much gratified His Majesty.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 228.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 589.)

Therapia, July 6, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Porte appears determined not to yield to Aleko Pasha on the question of appointments in the postal and telegraph services in Eastern Roumelia, which formed the subject of Mr. Michell's telegrams to your Lordship of the 1st and 3rd instant. Caratheodory Pasha states that the Governor-General, by virtue of his office, and as representing the Imperial Government, will, of course, have the supervision and control of the service, but that the employés will be appointed by the Direction at Constantinople, and will be directly under its orders.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 229.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 590.)

Therapia, July 6, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Gould's telegram to your Lordship of the 17th ultimo, which he communicated to me relative to the return of the Albanians to Servia, Caratheodory Pasha informs me that in making its request the Porte had no intention of asking a favour, but was merely exercising its right under the Treaty of Berlin. His Excel-

leney states that Servia is bound to receive back the inhabitants of the territory ceded to her. In taking up arms during the war they were but doing their duty, but they have now an undoubted right to return to their homes unconditionally.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 230.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 592.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 7, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul-General Blunt, stating, in reply to my inquiries on the subject, that the services of Colonel Synge are no longer required, and that he has in consequence requested that gentleman to return to Constantinople.

I also instructed Mr. Blunt to convey to Colonel Synge my high appreciation of the efficient manner in which he has discharged the duties entrusted to him, and my thanks for the valuable information he has furnished to Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 230.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Salonica, June 27, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report, in reference to your Excellency's despatch of the 20th instant, that the situation of affairs in Thessaly and Macedonia renders it advisable now to dispense with Colonel Synge's services in these provinces, and to allow him to return to Constantinople to resume his duties in the Ottoman gendarmerie.

I have, therefore, informed Colonel Synge that his services are no longer required, and I have expressed to him, in the sense of your Excellency's instructions, your high appreciation of the manner in which he has performed the duties entrusted to him, and your Excellency's thanks for the valuable information he has furnished to Her Majesty's Government.

I have also informed him of your Excellency's kind assurance that you will use your best endeavours to induce the Porte to utilize his valuable services.

Colonel Synge, during all the time he was attached to my Mission in Thessaly, discharged his duties with tact and ability, and most cheerfully carried out the instructions I gave him in the interest of the public service. I am, therefore, grateful to your Excellency for having given me the privilege and satisfaction of conveying to him your high appreciation of his valuable services.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 231.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 594.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 8, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a very interesting private letter I have received from Sir Collingwood Dickson from Philippopolis respecting the organization of the Eastern Roumelian Militia. I lose no time in forwarding this letter to your Lordship, as Sir Collingwood Dickson's official Report cannot be received for several days.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 231.

General Sir C. Dickson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Dear Sir Henry, *Philippopolis, July 5, 1879.*

MY telegram of to-day will have acquainted you with the signature of Decrees for the reorganization of the militia and formation of the gendarmerie by the Governor-General. We have been so busy in assisting to prepare these Decrees and put affairs into a satisfactory condition, that I have not had the time to prepare a special Report for your information, but will do so as soon as possible after my arrival.

The Decrees signed by the Governor-General apply to the formation of the militia into twelve battalions, according to the Statute, and the formation of the new force of gendarmerie.

The Militia Decree provides for the provisional maintenance of three mobilized militia battalions, and of nine on the peace footing, according to the regulations laid down by the Statute of the province.

The head-quarters of the battalions are fixed, two in each Department of Eastern Roumelia (six Departments); and the manner in which the numerical strength of the militia is to be gradually reduced from its present numbers of about 6,500 men to about 4,000 is laid down, until a Decree of the Provincial Assembly, after the elections, in view of the great cost of keeping up so large a force, places the militia on the peace footing of 1,500 or 1,600 men.

The Decree for the gendarmerie settles that a permanent force of 900 infantry and 100 horsemen be permanently kept up, and its Articles for the number of foot and horse gendarmes to be stationed in each Department. Many volunteers for the gendarmerie (both Christian and Mussulmans) have already come forward for enrolment, and will be employed in the Departments in proportion to the inhabitants of both creeds therein.

The Decrees in question are very long, and had to be translated into the Bulgarian language for presentation to the Governor and Council of the province.

All this has necessarily taken up much time, and I shall not in consequence be able to furnish you with copies until after my return, when they will accompany my official Report.

We owe much to Michell in getting these Decrees signed so soon after their presentation, for there was an inclination on the part of Aleko Pasha and the Council not to approve of them, owing first to their dislike to General Vitalis, and then to an idea that the purport of the Decree was to lessen the strength and efficiency of the militia at the present moment, and they consider it ought to be kept up as at present at any cost. I do not see why, for the province can have nothing to fear from any foes, external or internal! Michell overcame this difficulty by his representations, to which were added those of the French Commissioner, and the Decrees were signed in consequence the day after their presentation by General Vitalis.

There is still a difficulty about the nomination of the officers for the militia and gendarmerie, and a list posting the officers to the different corps of both services presented by Vitalis is not yet signed, but I think Michell and the French Commissioner will get this arranged in a day or two. Without this being carried into effect the arrangements made by the Decrees cannot be worked. The fact is, that Russian influence has been at work to interfere with and disarrange the list of officers, and although Aleko Pasha assured Michell such is not the case, we feel sure of it, as an Aide-de-camp of General Stolipine came here a few days ago, and is still here.

With regard to Vitalis, I am convinced he will never succeed in securing the confidence and support of the authorities; they are all against him, and I fear that, although he has been advised and counselled, he is not the man to carry out the Decrees just promulgated to a good end.

In conclusion, I must express to you my sense of the able manner in which my friend De Torcey has executed the task assigned to us, and of the tact and ability he has displayed in helping me to carry it out.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) C. DICKSON.

P.S.—We had a very stormy meeting with Aleko Pasha on the subject of his refusal to sign the nominations, as his proposed alterations tended to affect the discipline and efficiency of the forces, and would render nugatory the Decrees.

C. D.

No. 232.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 595.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 8, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of a communication I have received from the Porte relating to the extent of territory to be ceded to Persia with Khotour. I also inclose copy of a Memorandum which Colonel Clarke has, at my request, drawn up on the subject, and which, I venture to suggest, should be submitted to General Sir Arnold Kemball before it is communicated to the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 232.

Communication from the Porte.

(Traduction.)

LE Grand Vizir s'est adressé au Seraskiérat pour lui dire qu'il était nécessaire de presser le départ de la Commission chargée de fixer les nouvelles frontières Persanes.

Le Séraskier répond que la section de l'Etat-Major ignore l'étendu du territoire de Khotour qui doit être cédé à la Perse d'après le Traité, et comme l'Article LX du Traité de Berlin dit: "Céder à la Perse la ville et le district de Khotour, ainsi que l'avait déterminé la Commission Mixte chargée de la délimitation des frontières Turco-Persanes, au sein de laquelle se trouvaient des Délégués Anglais et Russe, le Seraskiérat s'était adressé au Grand Vizir en date du 21 Zilcadé pour demander (afin de les faire parvenir à la Commission de Délimitation de Bayazid) copie des cartes contenant les explications nécessaires et du rapport contenant les délibérations qui ont eu lieu au sein de la susdite Commission. Jusqu'ici aucune réponse du Grand Vizir ne lui est parvenue. La Commission qui doit fixer les frontières de la Perse doit avant tout déterminer la frontière du côté de Bayazid à partir de Cara-Orghan sur la frontière Asiatique Russe, jusqu'aux anciennes frontières Russes, et puis s'occuper de la frontière Persane. Toutefois, comme la Commission réunie au Seraskiérat pour déterminer la frontière d'Anatolie n'a encore rien décidé au sujet du territoire qui s'étend depuis Cara-Orghan jusqu'à l'ancienne frontière Russe du côté du Bayazid, il est évident que la Commission ne pourra pas être envoyée sur les lieux. En conséquence le Serasker prie le Grand Vizir d'envoyer au plus tôt les cartes et le rapport concernant le district de Khotour, conformément à la demande déjà formulée, pour être remis à la Commission.

5 *Redjib*, 1296 ($\frac{13}{14}$ *Juin*, 1879.)

Réponse du Grand Vizir.

J'ai pris connissance de la dépêche de votre Excellence. La Porte ignore l'existence du rapport en question, et l'Ambassade d'Angleterre n'ayant trouvé aucune trace de ce document s'est adressée à Londres. Elle espère le recevoir ces jours-ci et il vous sera envoyé dès qu'il nous parviendra. J'envoie ci-joint deux télégrammes reçus à la Porte demandant copie légalisée du rapport et des cartes concernant les nouvelles frontières du côté de Khotour, qui avaient été dressées et approuvées des deux côtés sous signature lors de la conclusion du Traité de San Stéfano.

Inclosure 2 in No. 232.

Memorandum.

THERE is no trace of any project of frontier or report among Sir A. Kemball's papers. From what General Zelinoi told me on a recent occasion, the deliberations of the English and Russian mediators (Sir A. Kemball and General Zelinoi) had not reached the stage of drawing up a report. When the Servian war broke out, which interrupted the deliberations, the mediating Commissioners were at issue with regard to one or two points beyond the rayon of Kotour. But with regard to the frontier at and near Kotour, the two mediating Commissioners, General Zelinoi tells me, were agreed so far as he recollects.

The working map of the Turco-Persian frontier, and by Sir A. Kemball, is with me.

(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE.

Constantinople, July 6, 1879.

No. 233.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 597.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 8, 1879.*

THE Grand Vizier and Carathéodory Pasha have complained to me very bitterly of the conduct of Aleko Pasha, but they both expressed their intention of taking no official notice of it until the Russian evacuation is completed. They accuse him of intentional disloyalty to his Sovereign, or of such extreme weakness that he allows himself to be guided by the Russian and Bulgarian clique. They cannot explain the reason for his omitting the name of M. Schmidt amongst those of the Directors submitted for the confirmation of the Sultan. They are convinced that, for some reason, it was purposely done, and was not the result of an accident, the Porte being desirous that M. Schmidt should have the control of the finances, and having confirmed his nomination as soon as it was officially known to it.

They also complain that Aleko Pasha, without any authority, is carrying on diplomatic communications with the Russian authorities and those of neighbouring States, thus infringing upon the sovereign rights and prerogatives of the Sultan, and that he is acting as if he were the Prince of an independent Principality. Judging from the language held to me by the Grand Vizier, the Porte is not inclined to put up much longer with the flagrant attempts of Aleko Pasha to violate the Treaty of Berlin and the Organic Statute, and with the manner in which he has ignored his duties to the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 234.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 600.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 8, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches upon matters of interest in their respective districts which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls at Philippopolis and Bourgas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 234.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 189.)
Sir, *Philippopolis, June 30, 1879.*

ON the $\frac{24th\ May}{5th\ June}$, consequently more than a month after the period fixed as the limit of the Russian occupation of this province, and therefore of Russian jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters, a court-martial, appointed by General Stolipine at Slivno, condemned to twenty years' hard labour in Siberia twenty Turks of the district of Aïdos accused of brigandage.

General Stolipine has written to the Governor-General offering to send the prisoners to Philippopolis, but on condition that the Governor-General shall formally engage to inflict on them a punishment equivalent to the sentence above-mentioned.

I have brought this fact to the knowledge of the Turkish Commissioner.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 234.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 191.) *Philippopolis, July* 1, 1879.

Sir,

THE Privy Council adopted at a meeting held yesterday the necessary measures for the appointment of a Special Commission under Article 13 of the Electoral Regulation (Appendix I to Chapter V of the Organic Statute), for the purpose of establishing electoral districts in this province.

The Prefects of Departments have been instructed to forward lists of the persons who should take part in the labours of that Commission, and it is intended that the latter should meet at Philippopolis during the course of next week.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 234.

Acting Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Bourgas, July 2, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the Bulgarian officer of police at Achialo, who caused two Turks of that caza to be beaten to death, and whose arrest for this crime I mentioned in my despatch of the 25th June, escaped from prison on the 29th instant. His escape is supposed to have been connived at by other officers of police.

I am informed that very many of the Bulgars who had emigrated from the villages formerly belonging to the Caza of Bourgas, but now comprised in the district of Kirk-Kilisseh and Vilayet of Adrianople, are returning to their homes.

In the course of a conversation with the Prefect of Bourgas, M. J. Petroff, that gentleman gave it me as his opinion that the grain sown this year in the districts of Slimnia and Bourgas does not amount to more than a fifth of the quantity usually sown in previous years.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CH. BROPHY.

No. 235.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 55. Secret.) *Constantinople, July* 9, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that yesterday the second meeting of the Commission was held for the reconsideration of the frontier between the Black Sea and Kavaourgan.

In my despatch No. 50 of 15th ultimo, I informed your Lordship of the proceedings of the first meeting held for the same purpose on the 14th June. At that meeting it transpired that some of the Turkish Commissioners were in difficulties as to the value to be given to the words "à l'est de Aschmischen," and, generally, the Turkish proposition did not appear to me to have been very clearly put forward. In consequence of this, I sought an interview with Caratheodory Pasha and submitted for his consideration the principles which, in my view, should underlie the interpretation of the Treaty. He said that he was convinced of the justice of my observations, and that he would endeavour to induce the Seraskier to cause his officers to take the same view. To avoid any misunderstanding, I gave him a written Memorandum, a copy of which I have the honour herewith to inclose.

The result has been that the Turkish Commissioners unanimously adopted the view expressed in that Memorandum at the meeting yesterday. The Russians, as might be expected, would not accept the Turkish interpretation of the Treaty, and sought to separate the discussion of the frontier at this section into two parts; viz. (1) from point south of Artwin to Aschmischen; and (2) from Aschmischen to Nariman; thus evading the whole spirit of the Treaty, which at the same time using the same

plea under which they always take refuge when the discussion becomes inconvenient or unfavourable to them—absence of instructions.

A copy of the letter written after the séance by the President of the Commission to the Minister of Foreign Affairs is herewith inclosed for your Lordship's information.

The indisputability of the Turkish position is so manifest, that I venture to tell the Turkish Commissioner that, in the event of the Russians not yielding on this point, he might fearlessly submit the matter in dispute to the arbitration of no-matter-what independent Power.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 235.

Memorandum left with Caratheodory Pasha on the 19th June, 1879.

IL paraît qu'il n'y a aucune différence entre les opinions exprimées par les deux Commissaires Russe et Turc en ce qui concerne le point où la ligne-frontière, après avoir traversé le Tchorokh, atteint la crête sur la rive droite de la rivière. Jusqu'ici ils sont donc d'accord.

Il s'agit maintenant de continuer.

Or, le Traité de Berlin déclare que de ce point la frontière "passe à l'est d'Aschmischen, en allant en ligne droite au sud pour rejoindre la frontière Russe indiquée dans le Traité de San Stéfano à un point au sud de Nariman . . . . ."

Il y a donc deux conditions à remplir:—

1. Que la frontière soit tracée en ligne droite du point sur la crête jusqu'au point au sud de Nariman.

2. La ligne droite théorique, proposée par le Commissaire Ottoman, qui est conforme aux vues et aux termes du Traité de Berlin doit, à mon avis, servir de base pour les discussions ultérieures[1]; c'est-à-dire; que cette ligne devrait servir de base générale, mais que, afin de donner une frontière naturelle, elle devrait être brisée à droite ou à gauche selon les accidents du terrain, en donnant aux deux Puissances limitrophes des compensations de territoire d'un côté ou de l'autre.

La proposition faite dans ces termes par le Commissaire Ottoman est, selon moi, basée sur des vrais principes, et ne pourrait être contestée.

Quant au point d'Aschmischen, je crois qu'il a été choisi au hasard. Ce point, selon la Carte de Kiepert de 1877, n'était pas précisément connu, comme il y est marqué aussi avec un point d'interrogation.

En décrivant par des mots la ligne-frontière projetée par les Plénipotentiaires à Berlin, il était convenable qu'un endroit, n'importe lequel, soit choisi, et le hasard tomba sur Aschmischen.

Quoique l'expression "à l'est d'Aschmischen" est vague, mais il n'y a pas de doute sur la portée de l'expression "ligne droite," et, en tout cas, on n'avait pas l'intention de toucher au tracé de la frontière, qui, en principe, comme il est distinctement indiqué, devait être une ligne droite du point sur la rive droite du Tchorokh jusqu'au point au sud de Nariman. Cette ligne droite est le principe cardinal du tracé de cette section de la frontière.

Inclosure 2 in No. 235.

Nedjib Pasha to Caratheodory Pasha.

Excellence, *Constantinople, le 5 Juillet,* 1879.

D'APRÈS l'ordre de votre Excellence nous devions nous réunir, Délégués Ottoman et Russe, pour nous entendre sur les deux propositions différentes[1] concernant le tracé de la frontière qui se trouve entre le sud d'Artwin et le sud de Nariman.

Comme nous devions nous tenir exactement conformé à l'Article LVIII du Traité de Berlin, qui dit:—"Du sud d'Artwin (la frontière) se prolonge en ligne droite jusqu'à la rivière Tchoroukh, traverse cette rivière, et passe à l'est d'Aschmischen, en allant en ligne droite au sud pour rejoindre," &c. (voir la carte Russe dont on s'est

[1] C'est-à-dire les propositions Russe et Turque.—F. C. H. CLARKE.

servi dans le Congrès de Berlin), nous avons proposé, d'après ce paragraphe, que la frontière, en traversant la rivière Tchoroukh, aboutisse en ligne droite jusqu'au sud de Nariman, et comme la ligne droite ne pourrait pas être une frontière applicable aux terrains, nous avons proposé en même temps d'appliquer pour les deux côtés le mode de compensation.

Mais les Délégués Russes déclinèrent notre proposition, en déclarant que leurs instructions étaient bornées seulement sur la discussion de la partie de frontière entre le sud d'Artwin et une colline avant l'Aschmischen.

Par conséquent, nous nous sommes séparés sans aucun résultat.

Daignez, &c.
(Signé) NEDJIB.

No. 236.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 57. Secret.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July 8, 1879.*

IN my despatch No. 55 of the 6th instant I had the honour to communicate to your Lordship the result of the second meeting held by the Russians and Turks to reconsider the frontier between the Black Sea and Karaourgan. One of the inclosures in that despatch was a letter written by the President to the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs, stating that the meeting had been abortive of result owing to the Russian Commissioner pleading inadequacy of instructions. Last night I received from my Turkish colleague (who keeps me informed of everything that passes) copy of the answer of the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs to the President of the Commission, and which I have now the honour to transmit for your Lordship's information.

The tone of that answer, which shows the intention not to yield to the astute but miserable subterfuges of the Russian Commissioner, leads me to take a much more favourable view of the ultimate result of these sittings than I have hitherto expressed to your Lordship. Since my interview of the 17th June, as detailed in my despatch No. 55, Caratheodory Pasha has expressed himself very strongly on this frontier question, and has shown an air of determination to contest the matter at issue to the last—a spirit which it is quite refreshing to see after the tone of indifference and weakness which characterized the conduct of the Turkish Commissioners at the earlier meetings.

If the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs succeeds in carrying his point, to which he is in justice entitled, not only will the Turks regain a considerable portion of the 250 square kilomètres which they had unnecessarily yielded to Russia, but a much better frontier will follow as a matter of course near Olti, where, as I had the honour to point out to your Lordship on a recent occasion, territory becomes of strategical importance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE.

Inclosure in No. 236.

Caratheodory Pasha to Nédjib Pasha.

(Secret.)
M. le Général, *Constantinople, le 6 Juillet, 1879.*

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir votre lettre en date du 5 Juillet.

Je ne comprends pas bien pour quel motif le Général Stébnitsky, qui avait précédemment tracé toute la ligne allant jusqu'au sud de Nariman, allégue aujourd'hui le défaut d'instructions pour s'arrêter à une colline près d'Aschmischen.

Je ne peux pas voir pourtant que cette circonstance soit de nature à empêcher le travail dont nous étions convenus dans la séance de Mercredi passé avec le consentement de leurs Excellences le Séraskier et le Prince Labanoff.

Eu égard à la divergence d'opinions qui s'était manifestée au sein de la Commission, on était tombé d'accord que chacune des deux parties tracerait sa ligne à partir de Tchoroukh-Sou jusqu'au point au sud de Nariman indiqué par le Traité.

La carte portant ce double tracé devrait être signée par les Commissaires

respectifs et accompagnée d'un court mémoire explicatif afin de permettre aux deux Gouvernements, ou pour mieux dire au Gouvernement Russe, de se prononcer en connaissance de cause.

Tout cela doit et peut être fait aujourd'hui aussi. M. le Général Stébnitsky est libre de s'arrêter où il voudra.

Quant à nous, je suis d'avis que nous ne pourrions suivre son exemple pour la raison que dans notre système le point au sud de Nariman est celui-là même qui décide la direction de la ligne droite passant près d'Olti.

Afin donc de ne pas retarder le travail plus longtemps, il me semble que nous devons nous en tenir pour notre part à la décision de Mercredi; sauf au Général Stébnitsky à s'arrêter au parti qui lui paraîtrait le plus convenable.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) A. CARATHÉODORY.

No. 237.

Mr. Cumberbatch to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 135.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, July 8, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 25th June, I have the honour to report to your Lordship the following particulars respecting the revision of Article 7 of the Constitution:—

On the 4th instant the Commissioners elected by both Houses to draw up the form of the Bill to effect this amendment terminated their work, which has resulted in the drawing up of an identic project, a translation of which I beg to inclose.

This projected amendment of Article 7 was signed by the majority of the members of the Commissions, and was presented to the Chamber on the 5th, and to the Senate on the 6th instant, for deliberation in the different sections of both Houses, and the Government hope that the Delegates of these sections will be able to lay their Report on the subject before the Assemblies, with their proposed alterations, by the 14th or 15th of this month, when the final debates will commence, and which the Government hope will not last more than four days in each House.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure in No. 237.

Projected Amendment of Article 7 of the Roumanian Constitution.

(Translation.)

ARTICLE 7. Every foreigner, without distinction of creed, can acquire Roumanian citizenship by fulfilling the following conditions and formalities:—

He must address a demand for naturalization to the Prince, in which demand must be stated the amount of his possessions, his position, his profession or trade, and his wish to establish his domicile on Roumanian territory.

If the foreigner who makes this demand has already inhabited the country for ten years, or if his behaviour and acts has shown that he has been useful to the country, he can have naturalization accorded to him through the Legislative Assemblies.

All who may have rendered important services to the country, who may endow the country with manufactures or useful industries, who may possess distinguished talents, or who may found important commercial or industrial establishments, shall be exempted from the sojourn of ten years.

Foreigners born and educated in Roumania, and whose parents are also born in the country, and who have, like them, not been under any foreign protection, shall also be exempted from the sojourn of ten years.

Naturalization can only be accorded individually, and in virtue of a law voted by a majority of two-thirds of the Legislative bodies, and sanctioned and promulgated by the Prince.

The title of Roumanian is preserved and lost in conformity with the provisions of the Civil Code.

A special law will determine the way in which foreigners will be able to establish their domicile on Roumanian territory.

Such as do not enjoy the full rights of Roumanian citizenship cannot acquire the possession of rural estates in Roumania except through abintestate inheritance.

No. 238.

Mr. Cumberbatch to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 15.)

(No. 156.)

Bucharest, July 9, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my previous despatches on the subject, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship the accompanying French text of the Report of the Commission elected by the Chamber to draw up a project for the amendment of Article 7 of the Constitution, and which shows the results of its deliberations.

This Report was read to the Chamber on the 5th instant with the projected alteration in that Article.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure in No. 238.

Report of Commission elected by Roumanian Chamber to revise Article VII of the Constitution.

(Traduction.)

MM. les Députés,

LA Commission d'Initiative Législative, nommée par vous et composée de MM. A. Terackin, G. Kitzo, J. Codresco, N. Fleva, J. Agarici, D. Giani, P. Carp, E. Costinesco, N. Nicoresco, D. Capreano, et G. Marzesco, étant chargée d'une mission spéciale, celle d'élaborer un texte de dispositions Constitutionnelles destiné à remplacer l'Article 7 de la Constitution que les Chambres dissoutes ont déclaré, conformément à l'Article 129 de la Constitution, devoir être révisé, la Commission d'Initiative Législative a l'honneur de vous soumettre aujourd'hui, par l'organe du Soussigné, nommé Rapporteur, le résultat de ses délibérations.

Le devoir de votre Commission était d'abord de constater que les Chambres actuelles exercent le droit de révision conformément aux règles déterminées par notre pacte fondamental.

Or, de même que la Constitution de 1866 est sortie de la libre volonté des représentants de la nation, de même votre Commission espère que les nouvelles Assemblées arriveront à la révison de l'Article 7 par une discussion calme et patriotique.

Le travail qu'au nom de la Commission j'ai l'honneur de soumettre à votre appréciation, n'est pas à proprement parler un projet de loi mais une série de dispositions Constitutionnelles destinées à remplacer l'Article 7 de la Constitution.

Sur les onze membres dont se compose votre Commission, M. P. Carp a déposé une proposition ainsi conçue :—

"1. En vertu de l'Article 129 de la Constitution, supprimer purement et simplement le paragraphe de l'Article 7 qui commence par ces mots : 'Seuls les étrangers.'

"2. Introduire les modifications suivantes dans notre Code Civil :—

"Les Articles 8 et 9 sont supprimés et remplacés par l'Article 16 auquel on ajoutera : 'Seront également dispensés du stage les Juifs qui, nés dans le pays, n'ont jamais été sous aucune protection étrangère.'

"3. Introduire dans la Loi Communale un nouvel Article ainsi conçu :—

"Les Juifs du pays pourront exercer les droits communaux sans avoir obtenu la grande naturalisation. On entend par Juifs du pays, ceux qui, nés dans le pays, n'ont été sous même protection étrangère pendant deux générations.

"4. Maintenir la Loi du 16 Août, 1864, en ce qui concerne les droits civils des étrangers."

Cette proposition, développée par son auteur au sein de la Commission, a été soutenue par des considérations de politique extérieur; elle a été repoussée à l'unanimité, sauf M. Carp.

Les sections de la Chambre seront à même de mieux apprécier l'économie et l'importance de la proposition de M. Carp lorsqu'elles s'occuperont de l'examen du projet de la Commission.

Le projet de dispositions Constitutionnelles que j'ai l'honneur de vous présenter au nom de la Commission ne pourrait être utilement étudié par vous si nous n'y joignions les divers amendements proposés au sein de la Commission, amendements qui ont d'ailleurs été repoussés.

Le projet de dispositions Constitutionnelles et ces divers amendements contiennent l'ensemble des pensées exprimées et des idées émises dans les nombreuses séances tenues par la Commission. Ils forment un tout qui doit vous être soumis.

M. Emile Costinesco a présenté divers amendements. Par le premier, on dispense du stage de dix ans les étrangers nés en Roumanie, et qui n'ont bénéficié d'aucune protection étrangère.

M. Costinesco trouve que c'est une rigueur extrême et qui n'existe dans aucun état du monde, qu'un étranger né et élevé en Roumanie ait encore besoin, pour être dispensé du stage de dix ans, que ses parents soient également nés dans le pays et n'aient jamais été sous aucune protection étrangère. M. Costinesco ajoute que cette rigueur est rendue encore plus frappante par ce fait que, jusqu'ici, l'étranger né et élevé en Roumanie devenait citoyen Roumain en vertu d'une simple option.

Le second amendement proposé par M. Costinesco demande que, par exception et pour une fois seulement, on accorde les droits de citoyens Roumains aux Juifs qui seront compris sur une liste à dresser et qui sera votée en même temps que la modification de l'Article 7 de la Constitution. Sur cette liste, M. Costinesco propose de porter : "(*a.*) les Juifs qui ont servi dans l'armée depuis l'application de la Loi de Recrutement de 1864 jusqu'à ce jour; (*b.*) les Juifs qui ont fréquenté les écoles Roumaines et ont obtenu le baccalauréat; (*c.*) ceux qui ont fait une dotation importante à un établissement d'instruction ou de bienfaisance; (*d.*) ceux qui ont établi une industrie ou une fabrique importante dans le pays, les fabriques d'eau-de-vie exceptées; (*e.*) ceux qui ont écrit en langue Roumaine un ouvrage scientifique ou littéraire."

Ces deux amendements ont été repoussés à égalité de voix.

Votre clairvoyance n'aura pas de difficulté à voir la grande différence qui existe entre ces amendements et le texte proposé par la Commission, ainsi que les conséquences qui résulteraient de l'adoption de ces amendements.

Par l'exposé de ce qui précède, la Chambre pourra se faire une idée de l'esprit qui a présidé aux travaux de la Commission.

Rapporteur fidèle, je dois constater que tous les membres de la Commission, à l'exception de M. Carp, dont les idées relativement à la question Juive sont connues, ont soutenu à l'unanimité ces quatre grands principes :—

"1. Il n'a jamais existé dans le pays de Juifs Roumains, mais seulement des Juifs indigènes, c'est-à-dire, nés en Roumanie, sans pour cela ressembler aux Roumains soit par la langue, soit par les mœurs, soit par les aspirations.

"2. La naturalisation sera accordée à tout étranger, en dehors de toute considération de religion, individuellement et par une loi spéciale.

"3. Les formalités de la naturalisation seront spécifiées par sa Constitution.

"4. Le droit de posséder des immeubles ruraux sera un droit politique et non civil."

Relativement au droit de posséder des immeubles en Roumanie, j'ai l'honneur de vous faire connaître deux amendements, que la Commission a repoussés, et dont l'un est de MM. Codresco et Nicoresco, l'autre de MM. A. Terackin et G. Marzesco.

Le premier de ces amendements porte :—

"Seuls ceux qui jouissent des droits de citoyens Roumains peuvent posséder des immeubles en Roumanie."

Le second amendement est ainsi conçu :—

"Les étrangers, même ceux nés et élevés dans le pays, ne peuvent posséder des immeubles par actes entre vifs, dispositions testamentaires ou *usucapiane*, s'ils ne sont pas naturalisés.

"Cette restriction n'est pas applicable aux étrangers que les lois antérieures autorisaient à posséder des immeubles."

MM. Codresco et Agarici ont proposé de leur côté :—

"Celui qui a reçu la naturalisation, ne pourra exercer le mandat de représentant de la nation ni remplir les fonctions de Ministre et de membre de la Haute Cour de Cassation et de Justice, qu'après vingt ans révolus, à partir de la date où la loi de naturalisation a été promulguée."

Malheureusement, cette proposition a été également repoussée.

Le texte que j'ai l'honneur de vous soumettre a été pris en considération par tous les membres de la Commission, sous le bénéfice, bien entendu, que chacun d'eux

pourra, au cours de la discussion publique, soutenir les amendements qu'il a proposés et que la Commission a repoussés.

M. P. Carp, au moment du vote de prise en considération, était absent; M. D. Giani a déclaré au début même de la séance qu'il s'abstiendrait et a motivé son abstention.

La Commission, à l'unanimité—moins MM. Carp et Giani—m'a fait l'honneur de me nommer Rapporteur.

Ces explications données, et annexant à l'original la proposition de M. P. Carp, ainsi que les autres propositions envoyées par le Bureau de la Chambre, de même que les différentes amendements repoussés par la Commission, j'arrive à l'exposé des motifs sur lesquels est basé le projet de dispositions Constitutionnelles destinées à remplacer l'Article 7 de la Constitution.

Exposé des Motifs.

Considérant que le simple fait de la naissance sur le territoire Roumain, d'après nos traditions historiques les plus anciennes n'a, par lui-même, jamais conféré de plein droit la nationalité Roumaine;

Considérant que, même dans le cas où la naissance était suivie d'un domicile permanent ou d'une longue résidence, on n'avait pas droit à la nationalité Roumaine;

Considérant que la défense Constitutionnelle insérée dans le 2e paragraphe de l'Article 7 de notre pacte fondamental a été dictée par un sentiment de conservation et d'avenir national, et non par esprit d'intolérance religieuse; car de tous temps les Roumains ont reconnu et pratiqué cette vérité philosophique qui veut que la conscience de l'homme ne soit pas sacrifiée aux convenances sociales;

Considérant qu'il est prouvé de plus que nos prescriptions législatives n'ont pas toujours été basées sur les différences de religion, mais sur des considérations et des raisons purement civiles et politiques;

Considérant que la liberté complète et entière de tous les cultes est un principe consacré par l'Article 21 de notre Constitution, et que les dispositions qui entourent cet Article sont conformes aux vrais principes et raisons politiques en honneur chez tous les peuples civilisés;

Considérant que l'acte de naturalisation est une attribution de la souveraineté, laquelle réside dans l'Assemblée Nationale;

Considérant que si le territoire est nécessaire pour la Constitution d'une nation comme Etat, ce n'est toutefois pas par le territoire que l'on peut caractériser une nation, mais par le génie propre à sa race;

Considérant que non-seulement le sentiment de dignité nationale, mais aussi le suprême intérêt de conservation nationale, réclame impérieusement que la Roumanie ne confie point ces destinées à des étrangers qui n'ont pas encore prouvé que par leurs mœurs, leurs usages, et leur langue ils ont des aspirations semblables au génie propre à la nation Roumaine;

Considérant qu'une loi de naturalisation ayant, par sa nature et son essence la plus intime corrélation avec les bases fondamentales de l'existence de l'Etat, est par conséquent une loi éminemment Constitutionnelle;

Considérant qu'en matière de naturalisation la faveur personnelle que l'on fait à un étranger ne doit être accordée que sur des garanties que chaque Etat est seul en mesure d'apprécier;

Considérant que si le progrès de la civilisation, la facilité des communications, les rapports journaliers du commerce entre les nations et les individus ont fait s'établir entre les peuples modernes de liaisons de sympathie toutes différentes de celles qui existaient entre les peuples de l'ancien temps, toutefois la saine raison démontre que les distinctions rationnelles entre les nationaux et les étrangers d'un Etat quelconque, alors même que ces derniers seraient nés sur le territoire de cet Etat, ne peuvent être définitivement exclues;

Considérant que sans manquer aux traditions d'hospitalité de la Roumanie, les formalités de la naturalisation doivent être en rapport direct avec les idées et les instincts du pays; que, dès lors, une trop grande indulgence en semblable matière équivaudrait à une abdication de la nationalité Roumaine;

Considérant que toutes les fois qu'il s'agit d'une transformation sociale quelconque, la sagesse du législateur vraiment éclairé consiste surtout à tenir compte de la conscience nationale éclairant progressivement et sans commotion l'esprit public;

Considérant que non-seulement notre intérêt, mais aussi l'honneur de la naturalisation exige une étude minutieuse et consciencieuse des antécédents moraux que chaque étranger désireux d'obtenir la naturalisation peut posséder tant en Roumanie qu'à l'étranger;

Considérant que les bases de l'Etat Roumain se trouveraient ébranlées de fond comble si l'on conférait *de plano*, et sans aucune autre condition ou formalité, naturalisation à des étrangers qui, par leurs idées et leurs habitudes*

No. 239.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 15.)

(No. 428.)

My Lord, *Vienna, July* 12, 1879.

THE Turkish Ambassador has handed to the Austrian Government a Circular by which the Porte calls the attention of the Powers to the non-execution of the Article of the Treaty of Berlin by which it was provided that the Danube fortresses were to be completely razed within a year after the ratification.

The Imperial Government will, I understand, direct their agents to ascertain and report upon the actual condition of the fortresses in question.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 240.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 15.)

(No. 430.)

My Lord, *Vienna, July* 12, 1879.

NO answer has yet been received by the Austrian Government to their confidential communication to the Government of Roumania on the question of religious liberty.

M. Balatchano, the Roumanian Minister here, whom I saw to-day, told me that it was still very doubtful whether his Government would succeed in getting any advance made upon the proposals of the Commission, which had been referred to a Committee of seven members, selected by the Chamber. At present it was known that four of them were for accepting the proposals as they stand, and unless one of them can be gained over and thus secure a majority in favour of carrying the concessions further, M. Bratiano must resign, which, far from leading to a solution of the question, would render it less hopeful than ever, as it is certain the Conservatives, who form the Opposition to the present Government, would not go further than their predecessors in measures of relief for the Jews.

M. Balatchano asked under what Article of the Treaty the Powers could consider themselves entitled to use force or coercion towards Roumania.

I said that the position of the Powers was perfectly simple; they had agreed that the United Principalities should be erected into an independent State upon certain conditions which had been accepted by Roumania, and they were fully entitled to insist upon those conditions.

He admitted, he said, that if the Powers considered that as full a measure of religious liberty as they thought necessary was not granted, they would have a right to withhold their official recognition of independence, and though this would be greatly deplored it would be submitted to with resignation; but further than that the Powers would not be warranted in going, and they ought to be aware that by the pressure they were exerting to force the Government to measures to which the populations are opposed, they run the risk of provoking massacres, or even revolutionary disturbances.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

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* The copy sent to the Printer ends abruptly thus.

No. 241.

Caratheodory Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, July 15.)

Constantinople, le 13 Juillet, 1879.

(Télégraphique.)

VOTRE Excellence sait que les travaux de la Commission de Délimitation du Monténégro se trouvent toujours suspendus. Après les déclarations que Lord Salisbury avait faites à votre Excellence, nous étions en droit d'espérer que le Gouvernement Britannique, se rangeant à notre manière de voir, l'appuierait auprès des autres Puissances de sa haute et légitime influence, et donnerait à son Délégué l'ordre de procéder, de concert avec ses collègues, à une reconnaissance générale du terrain et à une levée topographique, seul moyen propre à résoudre toutes les questions en litige concernant la frontière Monténégrine. Aussi, avons-nous été étonnés de recevoir, par l'entremise de l'Ambassade d'Angleterre, communication d'un télégramme de Lord Salisbury nous engageant fortement à accepter les décisions de la Commission, prises à la majorité des voix. Nous sommes prêts à accepter ce principe, et nous en reconnaissons toute l'utilité pratique en tant qu'il s'agira des questions de détail; mais, quant à l'adoption de ce principe pour des questions fondamentales, telles que celles de Goritza-Topid et de Clementi, autant vaudrait renoncer d'avance aux stipulations expresses du Traité de Berlin, puisque le tracé Autrichien que les Commissaires veulent faire prévaloir s'en écarte sensiblement. Les erreurs matérielles du tracé Autrichien sont évidentes, et il suffirait d'une simple inspection des lieux pour les constater. Le doute n'est pas permis à cet égard, et le Gouvernement Impérial persiste à penser que le mode de procéder qu'il a suggéré est seul fait pour assurer la stricte et fidèle exécution de la délimitation contenue dans le Traité de Berlin. A défaut de ce mode de procéder, la motion du Commissaire Italien aurait pu, à un degré à peu près égal, établir les droits des deux partis; mais cette motion n'a pas réuni l'adhésion unanime des Délégués. Dans cet état de choses, je prie votre Excellence de revenir sur la question pour amener Lord Salisbury à donner à son Commissaire des instructions de nature à préparer une solution des questions en litige, conforme au texte précis du Traité de Berlin.

No. 242.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15, 1:10 P.M.)

(No. 20.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, July 14, 1879.*

BULGARIAN inhabitants of Buyukléré, near Mustapha-Pasha, are reported to the Governor-General to be emigrating northwards, on account of Bashi-Bazouks having been seen in the vicinity.

Two companies of militia are to be sent to-morrow. Matter not considered serious.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 243.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15, 12:30 P.M.)

(No. 21.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, July 14, 1879.*

WITH reference to despatch No. 35, I regret to say that I have found the statement of the Governor-General to be untrue. He had nothing to do with the lowering of the Bulgarian flag. It was taken down by four young men whom I know, and who divided the flag among them. I have seen a piece of it.

The new flag is still flying; and a militia sentry guards it at night.

The despatch in question need not therefore be considered confidential.

(Sent to Embassy.)

No. 244.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15, 1:30 P.M.)

(No. 22.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, July 14, 1879.*

RUSSIAN Commissioner returned to-day. He has stated to the Italian Commissioner that he received new instructions two days ago, authorizing him to take part in the discussion in the special case of telegraphs, reserving question of principle hitherto maintained.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 215.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 18.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, July 14, 1879, 6:30 P.M.*

TURKISH Minister has communicated to me a telegram he has received from the Porte relative to Albanians. It is couched in such vague terms that it would be useless to act upon it.

I think Porte should first ascertain for itself whether Albanian refugees are willing to return, and then address to Servian Government a firm but conciliatory demand, which I could, if necessary, support. Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs says he does not believe Porte really desires the return to Servia of these Albanians.

(Above telegraphed to Sir H. Layard.)

No. 216.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 549.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 14, 1879, 7:30 P.M.*

OSMAN PASHA informs me it is true that Shefkot Pasha has a military command in Thessaly, which he received seven or eight months ago, and that he resides sometimes at Larissa and sometimes elsewhere. It is somewhat singular that I had not heard of this before, and that neither Blunt nor Longworth, who have been so long in the province, have mentioned it.

No. 247.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15, 12:30 P.M.)

(No. 550?.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 15, 1879, 9 A.M.*

FOLLOWING from Consul-General at Salonica:—

"The Commander-in-chief received to-day a despatch from Suleiman Pasha, stating that it was only yesterday he occupied Djuma, in presence of European Commission for demarcation of frontier. He encountered no opposition, but before he entered the town it was set fire to, and has been abandoned by its Bulgarian inhabitants."

No. 248.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15, 3 P.M.)

(No. 19.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, July 15, 1878, 12:30 P.M.*

FRONTIER determined up to Prepolac, where Commission arrived Saturday, and were joined by new Ottoman Delegate. Whole of Servo-Turkish frontier will probably have been marked out in another week.

No. 249.

Mr. Cumberbatch to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15, 3 P.M.)

(No. 2. Secret.) *Bucharest, July 15, 1879, 10·30 A.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

ROUMANIAN Minister of Finance left yesterday morning for Berlin, to try and come to terms concerning repurchase of the Roumanian railways by Berlin banks, and thus satisfy German Government. In passing through Vienna, he will try to confer with Count Andrassy on the subject of revision of Article No. 7 of Constitution.

No. 250.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15, 5 P.M.)

(No. 23.) *Philippopolis, July 14, 1879.*
(Telegraphic.)

THE Governor-General has dissolved the Commission appointed in Police-master (*sic*), on the ground of its inutility, since the facts on which the accusation is based have been established. His Excellency has [? decreed] that conduct of that officer has rendered him unfit to fill any post in this province, and dismissed him from the two appointments which he has temporarily held.

This decree is to be communicated to Police-master, with [group wrong] to submit to inquiry; and its results, in proper course of the law, shall be [four groups wrong] transmitted to French Consul, who acts for Italian.

No. 251.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 16.)

(No. 65. Political.) *Scutari, July 5, 1879.*

My Lord,

THREE days ago I received a telegram from Voïvoda Radonich, of which I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy, complaining of the advance from Dulcigno of a detachment of Turkish troops towards the present Montenegrin frontier in that direction, and urging me to use my influence with Hussein Pasha for the maintenance of the *statu quo* until the permanent line can be drawn by the Boundary Commission.

I immediately called upon the Governor-General, who explained to me that he had ordered a company of soldiers to be placed in the village of Kruci, as he had heard that some Montenegrins had within the last few days appeared there, and he wished to mark clearly that the line to which the Montenegrins are entitled by the Viz-Bazar Protocol (see inclosure in Political No. 29 of the 5th February, 1879), only commenced at Vieux (Val?) Kruci and not at Kruci, which is a village at least an hour closer to Dulcigno than the point mentioned in the Protocol.

His Excellency, however, promised me to telegraph at once to the officer in command to carefully avoid coming to a collision with the Montenegrins, and I, on my side, said I would recall to Voïvoda Radonich the paragraphs of the Protocol which appeared to define clearly the frontier which the Montenegrins ought to occupy.

In reply to a letter which I addressed to M. Radonich in the above sense, I have received from him copies of two telegrams which have since passed between him and Hussein Pasha, and of which I beg to furnish herewith transcripts.

I believe at the present moment Turkish troops and a Montenegrin outpost are both occupying the village of Kruci, and although I am inclined to consider the action of both parties more as intended to exercise political weight on the expected work of the Boundary Commission than as a determination to maintain asserted rights at all hazards, still the exchange of recriminating telegrams may suddenly be found to have reacted on the posts at Kruci.

Captain Sale has taken such a clear and correct view of the course which must be followed by the Boundary Commission, that it is quite unnecessary for me to venture upon any suggestion as to its work, but I believe I shall not be considered to be

interfering by expressing the conviction, that every day the Commission is forced to remain inactive adds to the danger of the political situation in these countries, and to the difficulties which will have to be encountered by the Commission.

I cannot help feeling that the interests of the Turkish Government would be much less likely to suffer if it placed a proper amount of confidence in the sense of fairness and justice of the majority of the Commissioners than by trusting to the petty and tortuous ways of its own authorities, who are attempting by the change of the names of localities to alter the existing configuration of the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 251.

M. Radonich to Consul Kirby Green.

(Télégraphique.) *Cettinjé, le 1er Juillet, 1879, 6·10 P.M.*

APPRENONS que ce matin Caïmacam Dulcigno sortit avec force à V. Kruci, et enjoignant à notre poste de quitter cette localité ce dernier s'y est refusé. Conflit imminent. Prière de vouloir bien dans l'intérêt de la tranquillité intervenir auprès des autorités de Scutari qu'ordre soit donné au Caïmacam qu'il est à continuer observer le *statu quo* sur ligne de démarcation jusqu'au passage de la Commission de Délimitation. En cas contraire renonçons d'avance toute responsabilité des conséquences de cet arbitraire.

Inclosure 2 in No. 251.

Hussein Pasha to M. Radonich.

(Télégraphique.) *Scutari, le 2 Juillet, 1879.*

LES autorités civiles et militaires Ottomanes sur les frontières me signalent que depuis deux jours les troupes Monténégrines avancent incessament vers Gruda, Kraïna, et Dulcigno, causant ainsi des dommages considérables aux populations pendant la moisson. La Convention signée à Vir Bazar en date du 21 Janvier, 1879, devient par ce fait lettre-morte.

En attendant les réclamations des populations susdites se multiplient continuellement. En présence d'un pareil état de choses je vous prie de vouloir bien donner les ordres nécessaires pour que la Convention de Vir Bazar soit scrupuleusement exécutée jusqu'à ce que la Commission Européenne chargée de la délimitation ait définitivement déterminée la ligne-frontière. En même temps je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien donner les ordres les plus précis pour que les troupes Monténégrines qui ont pénétré sous n'importe quel pretexte dans les points précité, aient à se retirer. Je dois vous déclarer que je décline dès à présent toute responsabilité pour tout inconvénient qui pourraient dériver des faits énoncés si, contre toute attente, les troupes Monténégrines persistaient de pas se retirer.

Inclosure 3 in No. 251.

M. Radonich to Hussein Pasha.

(Télégraphique.) *Cettinjé, le 3 Juillet, 1879.*

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir le télégramme de votre Excellence du 2 courant. Je suis en mesure de déclarer formellement à votre Excellence que les informations qui lui sont parvenues sur le prétendu mouvement des troupes Monténégrines vers Gruda, Kraïna, et Dulcigno sont complétement inexactes. Aucun mouvement de nos troupes ne s'est opéré vers ces localités depuis la signature de l'Arrangement de Vir-Bazar. Le Gouvernement Princier, par contre, s'est trouvé dans la nécessité de signaler au Corps Consulaire de Scutari ainsi qu'à la Commission Européenne de Délimitation le mouvement en avant des troupes Ottomanes de Dulcigno vers Kruci, mouvement qui ne peut être justifié par aucune raison plausible.

Les derniers renseignements qui nous parviennent à ce sujet disent que le

détachement sortit de Dulcigno sous le commandement du Caïmacam de cette ville, somma nos postes de se retirer de l'autre côté de la Mozoura, et après avoir essuyé un refus établit ses avant-postes bien au-delà de la ligne occupée par nos troupes depuis l'évacuation de Dulcigno.

Il me semblerait donc, Excellence, que ce serait plus tôt à mon Gouvernement qui a tenu en honneur de se conformer scrupuleusement au Traité de Berlin, ainsi qu'à l'Arrangement de Vir Bazar, de récuser toute responsabilité des conséquences qui pourraient résulter de cet incident d'autant plus regrettable qu'il se produit la veille de l'arrivée de la Commission de Délimitation sur les lieux.

No. 252.

Mr. Cumberbatch to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 16.)

(No. 158.) *Bucharest, July* 10, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a French text of the Report made by the Commission elected by the Senate to draw up a Project for amending Article 7 of the Constitution.

The Project mentioned in this Report is exactly the same as that decided upon by the Commission of the Chamber, and a translation of which I fowarded on the 8th instant by messenger.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure in No. 252.

French Text of Report of Commission elected by the Roumanian Senate to draw up a Project for revising Article 7 of the Constitution.

MM. les Sénateurs,

PAR votre vote du 13 courant, vous avez décidé qu'une Commission prise dans le Sénat devait arrêter un texte pour remplacer l'Article 7 de la Constitution, et vous avez bien voulu désigner pour faire partie de cette Commission MM. Bosiano, N. Cretulesco, B. Boerescu, Pierre Gradisteano, D. Pruneo, N. Pilat, A. Costin Bracsco.

Cette Commission, réunie au nombre de cinq membres, MM. Cretulesco et Boerescu s'étant abstenus de prendre part à nos travaux, s'est constituée sous la présidence de M. Bosiano, et m'a fait l'honneur de me nommer Rapporteur.

Après avoir procédé avec toute la maturité nécessaire à l'examen tant des intérêts nationaux et économiques du pays, que des exigences de la civilisation moderne, tous les membres présents sont tombés d'accord sur les termes de la proposition ci-jointe destinée à remplacer l'Article 7 de la Constitution. Chacun de nous pourtant s'est réservé le droit de développer en temps opportun, dans les sections et devant le Sénat, ses vues personnelles et de présenter des amendements.

No. 253.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 16.)

(No. 753. Confidential.) *Paris, July* 15, 1879.

My Lord,

M. WADDINGTON told me yesterday that he had read with great interest the instruction from your Lordship to Sir Henry Layard which had appeared in the recent Blue Book respecting the rectification of the Greek frontier.

I understood his Excellency to refer to the despatch from your Lordship to Sir Henry Layard of the 12th ultimo, which is printed at page 232 of the Blue Book, "Greece No. 1, 1879."

M. Waddington said that he had been much struck by the description of the line of frontier originally assigned by your Lordship to Greece. He begged me to ask your Lordship confidentially whether, as you had gone so far, you could not go a little farther and include Janina in the territory to be given to Greece.

He suggested that by so doing you would at once produce unanimity among all the Powers, and finish the whole matter out of hand.

M. Waddington went on to say that, by giving Janina to Greece, France and England would place themselves in a position to use very decided language to the Greek Government. He added that in that case he should, for his own part, be quite ready to join in a written engagement to shield Turkey from any fresh encroachments on the part of Greece.

He begged me to mention to your Lordship that he had strong reason to apprehend that, if the Greek cause were abandoned by France and England, it would be taken up in a very inconvenient and embarrassing manner by Russia.

Afterwards M. Waddington mentioned to me that the Porte seemed to be hesitating between naming Plenipotentiaries to treat the question with those named by Greece, and passing by this formality and referring the question of the frontier to the direct decision of the Great Powers.

He asked me which would, in my opinion, be the better course.

I said that no doubt in the end the Great Powers would have to decide the question themselves, but that, so far as I was able to judge, the more prudent course for the Porte would be to comply with the request made to it and name Plenipotentiaries. A refusal to do so might be misinterpreted, and give a handle to the enemies of the Porte for asserting that it was discourteous and impracticable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 254.

Count Károlyi to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 16.)

Dear Lord Salisbury, *Belgrave Square, July* 16, 1879.

MY Government has received a Report from our Consul at Prisrend, under date the 16th June last, copy of which I inclose, to the effect that the Christians, especially those belonging to the Greek religion, are in imminent danger of outrage and massacre at the hands of the fanatical Albanians. My Government have since that date received further reports to the same effect, which I shall have the honour to communicate to you as soon as I receive them myself.

Our Consul thinks, and my Government agrees with him, that, for the reasons set forth in the inclosed Report, the presence at Prisrend of the Consular Agent of another Power, more particularly of England, would act as a salutary and necessary check on the excited population.

I am instructed to bring the above to your notice, and to suggest whether, under those circumstances, the appointment of a British Consular Agent to Prisrend would not recommend itself favourably to Her Majesty's Government.

Believe, &c.
(Signed) KÁROLYI.

Inclosure in No. 254.

M. Isliuck to Count Andrassy.

(Translation.) *Prisrend, June* 16, 1879.

ACCORDING to a report from the Catholic Priest of Djakova, and as intelligence from Ipek announces, the situation of the Albano-Catholic Christians at Djakova (fifty families, without including the faudesen), as well as that of the Greek Oriental (Servian) community of Ipek (250 families, including the clergy), is at present very precarious.

I have also had confirmation of this from the Administrator of the Archdiocese, Father Emil, in regard to Djakova, with an urgent appeal for protection; and in regard to Ipek, from Catholic Albanians who have arrived here. The notorious family Kursani of Djakova, always hostile to Christians, threatened the richer Catholic families with the blood revenge on the 17th, although the latter are quite unconnected with the events of the 9th instant. The menaced persons are shut up in their dwelling

houses. What further may happen at Djakova, after the now declining Bessa, evades any calculation.

When I interposed, on the 10th and 11th instant, the Mutessarif, Münif Pasha, informed me that, according to reports from the local authorities at Djakova, no general attack upon the Catholic community there was to be feared from the Mussulmans.

If I should receive further disquieting information from Djakova or from Ipek, I will report thereon by telegraph to his Excellency the Imperial and Royal Ambassador, Count Zichy.

The Hodscha-Baschi of the Greek Oriental community, Testo Zakaria Jerich, arrived here on the 14th instant from Ipek, with full powers, and informed me that, during the last four months, twenty persons of the community had been murdered by the Mussulmans, out of fanaticism, merely because they were Christians; that even zaptiehs had lately massacred two persons of the community, in the immediate neighbourhood of the konak building, without any reason whatever.

Nothing is said about any interference of the authorities for the arrest and punishment of the murderers. We might look forward to the annihilation of the whole Greek Oriental community by the Mussulmans; first, they would murder the weaker members and regularly hunt them out. The houses of the Greek Oriental Christians are shut up; no one dares to appear in the streets for fear of being shot.

The population is in the extremity of despair. A brother of the Hadscha-Baschi had been sent with a petition to the Russian Consul at Salonica. The Hadscha-Baschi has sent a telegram to the Porte from this place urgently entreating protection and help for the community. Equally precarious is the position of the monastery at Decan. From twelve to twenty armed Mussulmans come there daily as unbidden guests, and enjoy themselves plentifully, amidst threats and insults to the ecclesiastics. A few days ago fifteen Mussulman agitators from (Akova) Piclopolje (and with them fifty-five from the Ipek district towns and Malessoren) arrived at the monastery, demanded of the ecclesiastics two oxen, which they slaughtered, and, after their meal, at which they drank 60 okes of brandy, resolved, amidst noisy discussion, that the Austro-Hungarian troops should not be allowed to march into Novi-Bazar without fighting. The Ipek district would furnish about 10,000 men; but the object of the Arnauts is evidently not serious fighting against our troops, but plundering the Christian villages and murdering defenceless people, as in the last campaign against Servia and Montenegro.

The Hadscha-Baschi, moreover, informed me that the fanatical Molah Zeka, of Ipek, had brought there, about two months before, from Mitrovitza, large quantities of ammunition (sufficient, as he says himself, for several tabors), also that Molah Zeka and the equally fanatical Schaban Bey have recently been distinguished by Turkish orders of a high class. Here, also, several fanatical agitators have been very active against us for some time, and there is talk again of an attack upon Prisrend by the Malessors of Djakova and Ipek districts, whose ostensible object is to enforce the accession of Prisrend to the Bessa, against the country's enemies, to which sixteen, mostly members of the League here, are opposed, as well as to compel the removal of the garrison troops, who entered here on the 5th instant. For this purpose about thirty Malessor Chiefs of those districts are to come here for negotiation.

To my inquiry on this subject, addressed to the Mutessarif Münif Pasha on the 11th instant, he replied clearly enough that he had no exact information on the subject, and that the policy and resolutions of the Mount Albanians were changing hourly.

Nothing is known here of the promulgation of a Government Firman in Uesküp, Pristina, and Mitrovitza, declaring that any attack upon our occupation troops in the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar would be punished with death. Münif Pasha and Abdul Effendi, the Uesküp member of the League who remained here, also told me that they knew nothing of this Firman and its promulgation.

In the peacefully-disposed circles of the Mussulman Notables here there is a lively regret that the agitator Mufti of Taschlidza is come back to Pristina at this time, and is in special favour with Nazif Pasha.

The Mufti was recently at Usküb; he did not go to Monastir.

The fact of the dispatch of ammunition to Ipek for the armed population, and the undoubted connivance of Nazif Pasha with the agitator Mufti of Taschlidza, makes the attitude of Nazif and Osman Nuri Pashas towards us appear at all events very equivocal.

The removal of the Mufti from Pristina, and the replacement of the two Pashas by other functionaries unconditionally devoted to the Government of the Porte and to its action, based on the Austro-Hungarian Convention, would very much facilitate the peaceable execution of the Convention, and promote the safety of the Christian communities. The commendations which have appeared in the correspondence even of the Vienna papers, sometimes dated from Prisrend, sometimes from Pristina, in reference to the measures adopted for the execution of the Convention by the two Pashas aforesaid, as well as by the notorious bandit and agitator Ali Draga, of Mitrovitza, may probably be influenced by certain aims, and ought to be regarded with caution.

From Mitrovitza four tabors of Mustafiz have been dismissed to their homes, which measure has caused an evil impression on the men of the three Redif battalions (1,350 men altogether) which entered here on the 5th instant. The soldiers, who have received no pay for forty months, wish to go home too, instead of having to fight eventually with the Arnauts.

Under the prevailing circumstances, and as, in fact, the most licentious anarchy prevails in Djakova and Ipek, as moreover as was experienced at Djakova on the 9th instant, there as well as at Ipek and at Prisrend, the slightest occasion is sufficient for the wildest outbreaks of Mussulman fanaticism, and to lead to attacks on the Christians, the local authorities being quite unprepared and helpless against such outrages, as again there is a possibility of the eventuality that the weak garrison here should be driven out by the Arnauts, or on the outbreak of disturbances would not fight against their co-religionists, and finally, as my own situation under the circumstances may become exceedingly perilous, my humble opinion is that the presence of another, perhaps an English, Consular functionary at Prisrend is urgently required for the protection of the Christians here at Djakova and Ipek.

The speedy arrival of the newly-appointed Archbishop for Prisrend, Mgr. Fulgenzi, would also be highly desirable. I beg leave, therefore, to submit to the gracious consideration of his Excellency the Imperial and Royal Ambassador, Count Zichy, the propriety of an intervention for both these purposes, as well as for the protection of the Christians at Djakova and Ipek, and I have to remark that I have not received satisfactory intelligence respecting the safety of the Catholic community of Ipek from the priest there.

The Turkish Commissioners, Kiamil Pasha and Halid Bey, have not yet arrived at Prisrend.

Accept, &c.

No. 255.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 16.)

(No. 24.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, July* 14, 1879, 10·20 P.M.

NO further details respecting movements on the frontier reported this morning; 500 militia have been dispatched.

The place in question is probably that marked north of Adrianople. General Vitalis says it is not [? the] place mentioned in my previous telegram.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 256.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 16.)

(No. 25.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, July* 14, 1879, 10·40 P.M.

COUNT STEINBOCK, Aide-de-camp to General Stolipine, had a long private conference with the Governor-General yesterday and to-day.

He has also interviewed General Vitalis, to whom he said, since so few Russian officers had been retained, the General should have none at all. General pretended [?] to be very sorry; but the Aide-de-camp said that Russian officers would not be allowed to remain on any consideration.

The Russians apparently think withdrawal of their officers will embarrass General,

who will, however, be too glad to dispense with them, and says he will write to Constantinople for Polish and Turkish officers.

Number [?] ly of Russian officers in militia and training battalion is about twenty-two, and in the gendarmerie six, out of a total of about 155.

The Aide-de-camp left this afternoon for Sophia, but intends to return in four days, on way back to Bourgas.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 257.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 16.)

(No. 20.) *Belgrade, July 15, 1879, 3 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

I AM informed that, in the instructions to the French and Austrian Delegates to the Servian Frontier Commission, mention is made of the delimitation of Mali Zwornik and Sakhar, as part of the task assigned to them; and that the latter will also probably raise questions relative to thalweg of the Drina. The other Commissioners are, as far as I can ascertain, without instructions on these points.

(Above telegram sent to Vienna.)

No. 258.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 16.)

Philippopolis, July 15, 1879, 4·30 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE received your Lordship's telegram dated [?] to-day. There are about 3,000 Russian cavalry with 1,000 artillery at present passing through Bulgaria for Rustchuk from Roumelia, besides some troops of the division quartered round Shumla. I should estimate the total number yet in Bulgaria at about 8,000 or 9,000.

No. 259.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 16.)

(No. 551.) *Therapia, July 15, 1879, 7·20 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

CONSUL-GENERAL Blunt telegraphs:—

"Shefket Pasha was transferred in October last from command of Salonica to that of Monastir. Subsequently, as reported to the Embassy at the time, he was sent in November to Larissa, in Thessaly, where he is now serving as second in command under the orders of Mushir Abdi Pasha. I observed, while at Larissa, that he tried to conciliate the Christian community, with the leading members of which he cultivated very friendly relations."

No. 260.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 159.) *Foreign Office, July 16, 1879, 1 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

MUSURUS PASHA has communicated telegram consenting to principle of majority being adopted by Montenegrin Commission in matters of detail, but not in matters of principle. I have asked him to define the latter.

No. 261.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 160.) *Foreign Office, July 16, 1879, 1·10 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

WE approve your language reported in No. 547.

I have spoken to-day very earnestly to Musurus Pasha in sense suggested by you.

No. 262.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 16, 4·15 P.M.)

(No. 21.) *Belgrade, July 16, 1879, noon.*
(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING telegram received from Her Majesty's Boundary Commissioner, dated Prepolac, 15th:—

"Frontier here has been agreed, Turkish Commissioner alone dissenting. An equitable line of demarcation has been laid down, and a good defensive frontier against a hostile population given to Servia."

No. 263.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gould.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 16, 1879, 6·20 P.M.*

YOUR despatch No. 189. You should remonstrate in very earnest language against the maltreatment of Mahommedans.

You should point out that these acts will be remembered against the Servian Government; that if troubles arise again in the Balkan peninsula the surest guarantee for Servian independence lies in the sympathy of Europe for Servia; and that that sympathy will be lost if efforts are not made to check these acts of fanatical barbarism.

No. 264.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 915.) *Foreign Office, July 16, 1879.*
Sir,

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a telegram addressed by the Porte on the 13th instant to the Turkish Ambassador in London, announcing the assent of the Ottoman Government to the adoption by the Montenegrin Commission of the principle of deciding questions in dispute according to the votes of the majority in matters of detail, but not where questions of principle are involved.

In receiving this communication from Musurus Pasha, I requested that his Excellency would define his exact meaning in speaking of the questions of principle in regard to which his Government were disposed to reserve their right of individual dissent.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 265.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 917.) *Foreign Office, July 16, 1879.*
Sir,

YOUR Excellency will have learnt from my telegram No. 160 of this day's date that Her Majesty's Government approve the language which you have held to the Grand Vizier and to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of the treatment of the Christians in the district of Zeitoun, as reported in your Excellency's telegram No. 547 of the 13th instant.

I have to-day taken an opportunity of speaking to Musurus Pasha in the sense suggested by your Excellency, and I have endeavoured to impress upon his Excellency's mind the very serious light in which Her Majesty's Government view the continued ill-treatment of Christians in Asiatic Turkey, and the disastrous consequences which must ensue should the reforms promised by the Porte not be put into execution without delay.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 266.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 918.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 16, 1879.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 553 of the 27th ultimo, and I have to express to you my approval of the *note verbale* which you have addressed to the Porte, of which copy is inclosed in that despatch, urging the expediency of at once taking steps to submit to local Commissions the Organic Statutes which are to be introduced into the several provinces of European Turkey, in accordance with the provisions of Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 267.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 919.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 16, 1879.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch No. 517 of the 19th ultimo, inclosing a Report from Mr. Acting Consul Calvert, stating that an intimation had been received by the foreign Consuls at Adrianople from the Governor-General of Southern Roumelia of a projected change in the procedure hitherto customary as to the service of notices of actions brought by Ottoman subjects against the subjects of foreign Powers, and of notices of actions instituted by foreigners.

In reply, I have to request that your Excellency will instruct Mr. Calvert to request from Réouf Pasha an explanation of his statement, to the effect that the "Reformed Tribunals are now entirely independent."

Before Her Majesty's Government can concur in any changes in the practice as to the service of notices of action they would be glad to receive the assurance that no modification whatever is intended to be introduced in regard to the rights of foreign Consuls, and the established usages in relation to mixed cases.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 268.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 920.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 16, 1879.

I REQUEST that your Excellency will have the goodness to inform Lieutenant Chermside that I have read with great interest the Reports he has drawn up on the progress made by the Commission sent by the Porte to inquire into the state of the Vilayet of Aleppo, and that I have noted with much satisfaction the discretion with which his own proceedings have been characterized.

At the same time, I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve the *note verbale*, of which a copy is inclosed with your Excellency's despatch No. 550 of the 26th ultimo, addressed by you to the Porte, in communicating to it the substance of Lieutenant Chermside's Reports.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 269.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gould.

(No. 70.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 16, 1879.

THE arbitrary manner in which the Mussulman inhabitants of Nisch and Pirot have been despoiled of their possessions by the local authorities, to which you have called my attention in your despatch No. 180, Confidential, of the 3rd instant, demands a prompt investigation on the part of the Servian Government.

I have to instruct you to remonstrate with M. Ristich in very earnest language against the ill-treatment of the Mahommedans domiciled in the Principality. They have an equal right with all other subjects of Prince Milan to the protection of the Government, and it should be borne in mind that in the event of troubles again arising in the Balkan Peninsula these acts of oppression will be remembered against the Servians.

The sympathy of Europe for Servia must be the surest guarantee for her independence, but that sympathy will inevitably be withheld if the Government fails to exert itself in order to check these acts of fanatical barbarism.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 270.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Musurus Pasha.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, July* 16, 1879.

YOUR Excellency has been good enough to communicate to me the copy of a telegraphic despatch from the Sublime Porte, dated the 8th instant, calling attention to the non-execution of that portion of Article XI of the Treaty of Berlin, which imposes upon the local Government of Bulgaria the duty of demolishing all the old fortresses situated in the Principality within one year, or sooner if possible.

I have the honour to inform your Excellency in reply that the subject in question has not been lost sight of by Her Majesty's Government, and that it will continue to occupy their attention. Should the Ottoman Government think it desirable to make representations on the subject to the Prince of Bulgaria, Her Majesty's Government will be prepared to instruct their Agent and Consul-General to join in such representations.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 271.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 52. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, July* 5, 1879.

PHOTIADES PASHA is making strenuous efforts to reform the Courts of Law, which the events of the last two years have allowed to fall into a state which would be a disgrace to any community. Hundreds of cases are awaiting judgment, and prisoners accused of murder are known to have been lingering three years in confinement without being brought to trial. As the four Judges of each Court are chosen by popular suffrage, and are nearly always without legal training, it becomes of the utmost importance that the Presidents should be possessed of qualities commanding respect.

But the salaries are so small—only about 120*l.* a-year—that it is found hard to induce qualified lawyers to accept such posts. The Pasha is particularly desirous of finding a suitable occupant for the post of President of the Court of Appeal, but though he has offered it to several eminent lawyers abroad, the salary of 480*l.* a-year is not sufficient to attract them.

His Excellency has lost no time in availing himself of the money placed at his disposal at the custom-house; 3,150*l.* sterling from that source has sufficed to pay the arrears of most of the gendarmerie. Another sum of 1,350*l.* from the same source

is also available for clothing about 1,000 men, so that in a short time the corps of gendarmerie will wear quite a different aspect.

The tithes of the grain crops have been sold for nearly 36,000*l.* sterling, although the crop is a full fourth below the average. There is thus reason to hope that means will be found for carrying on the administration in a creditable manner.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 272.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 53. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, July 5, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch which I have written to his Excellency Sir Henry Layard, on the subject of certain protestations made by the Cretan refugees in Athens, and by Cretans here, against assertions of mine about the desire of the latter for British protection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 1 in No. 272.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Canea, Crete, July 5, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 25th ultimo, inclosing copy of a letter addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Athens by Cretan refugees there, and of another to your Excellency. The object of the former letter is to prove the groundlessness of certain published statements of mine which are in contradiction with their cherished conviction that the Christian population of Crete is unanimous in its desire for the union of their island with Greece, whereas I had asserted that in July last, after the close of the Berlin Congress, they had expressed a strong desire to be placed under British protection.

Your Excellency will not think it incumbent on me to enter into explanations on this subject, as I have positively nothing to modify in my original statement.

As I had the honour to state in the inclosure to my despatch of the 14th ultimo, certain persons here have been busy in collecting signatures to declarations denying that there was ever any desire on the part of their countrymen for a British Protectorate, who, on the contrary, have always expressed a wish for the annexation of their island to Greece. I am bound to say that few signatures of leading persons appear in these documents, and numbers of them are evidently in the same handwriting. As they are all couched in nearly similar terms, I content myself with forwarding to your Excellency a translation of only one, which will serve as a sample of the rest. Some districts, such as Sphakia, Selino, and those in the east, have refrained from joining in this manifestation; while in others, viz., Amarion and Milopotamos, few signatures have been obtained.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 272.

Letter addressed to Consul Sandwith by the Christians of the Town of Candia.

(Translation.)
Sir, *Candia, June 14/26, 1879.*

IT is with great surprise that the inhabitants of the town of Candia have heard the serious accusation that some influential Chiefs have addressed letters to you, in which they maintain that it would be sufficient for you to give the signal for the English flag to be hoisted from one end of the island to the other, and that you have received petitions from Christians soliciting the protection of England.

No. 272*.

General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 38.)
My Lord, *Buyukdéré, July 7, 1879.*

AS a member of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission, I have now traversed entirely that portion of the Balkan range which forms a boundary between Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia; and, in view of the possibility that it may become desirable to confer with the Turkish Government on the subject of the defence of that frontier, I have the honour to submit some observations on its military character.

The Balkans here are not a mere range of elevated ground easy of passage; on the contrary, they constitute a formidable obstacle to the advance of armies. Throughout considerable portions the forests which clothe them render them practically impassable; their height, and the precipitous nature of the ravines which split them everywhere, form in other parts obstacles so great to the movement of troops that it is only at those passes which form recognized means of communication between the provinces that measures need be taken to guard against the approach of an enemy.

These differ much in character. There are some which, though they form continuous paths, and allow of the transit of pack animals or country carts, are difficult of passage by troops, and impassable for field artillery. The length of time occupied in the passage, the ease with which such roads may be barred, the difficulty of using them for purposes of supply, and the losses that would be suffered in attempting to retire through them under pressure of a superior enemy, render it very improbable that considerable operations should be attempted through them, or that it would be necessary to do more for their defence than to post in them small bodies chiefly to observe them.

The remaining passes, being those through which bodies of troops of all arms could advance without other impediment than the steepness of the road, are seven in number, namely, the Shipka, Hainkoui, Tvarditza, Demir-Kapou, Kotel, Verbitza, and Dobral passes.

Of these, four, namely, the Tvarditza, Demir-Kapou, Verbitza, and Dobral, are clothed with wood at the watershed for a considerable distance on both sides. They afford, therefore, nothing like positions, and their advantages for defence must consist in the difficulty which an enemy would experience in advancing anywhere, except by the road (not only the trees but the undergrowth being generally very dense), and the ease with which the passage may therefore be barred by a comparatively small force. It is, consequently, not likely that large columns would be committed to an advance by these passes until they should be entirely in the invader's possession.

There remain, therefore, three passes of chief importance at the outset of a campaign—the Shipka, Hankoui, and Kotel. They possess in common the characteristics of being bare at the watershed, of offering there strongly marked positions, with a steep ascent from Bulgaria, and therefore of affording great advantages for defence.

In each case the Commission extended the boundary from the watershed to the "military crest," or further edge of the summit from whence the slopes below are commanded. This, in two cases, was all that could be desired, because the line of the crest was the proper place not only for artillery but for the infantry, no position for which existed further down. But at the Hainkoui, the proper position for the infantry line was on a lower range of slopes, which I should, therefore, have wished to see included in the boundary. Though this was not done, yet the crest line is

strong and commanding, and the Commission secured it by including a summit 2,000 yards beyond the watershed, from whence an enemy's batteries would have looked down on the position.

It would appear, then, that if these passes are strongly defended, an enemy must begin an invasion of Turkey in this quarter by attacks made at a great disadvantage. That disadvantage will consist not only in the difficulty of dislodging troops so strongly posted, but in the greater power of the defender's artillery, which may always be, and ought always to be, of a heavier class than can accompany the assailants' march. No expensive fortifications would be required; earthworks thrown up by the troops would amply suffice. And it appears to me a proper measure that, in prospect of an invasion from Bulgaria, Turkey should create such works and occupy them with troops and artillery.

Whether, on entering on the military occupation of her frontier, Turkey could maintain in these passes, throughout the winter, troops sufficient to guard and preserve the batteries, supposing them to be made and armed, must be matter of consideration. If she could, they might be armed, at least partially, whenever that occupation begins. If not, the works and their armament should be carefully planned and laid down, and the requisite guns and ammunition kept at Bourgas and Adrianople, which, with an ordinary space for preparation before war, might suffice.

The forces occupying the passes would, in preparation for war, be the advanced guards of the corps assembled for the defence of Roumelia. Thus, a corps having its head-quarters at Kyzanlik might supply brigades for the occupation of the Shipka and Hainkeui passes; a regiment of infantry, with field artillery, which might suffice for the Pass of Tvarditza; and single battalions for the observation of such passes as that of the Topuriska-Poljana.

With the Pass of Dobral, the question of defending the frontier itself ceases to be important, the passes between that point and the head of the thalweg which forms the eastern portion of the frontier offering very bad means of communication through extensive forests, while the hill range to the south is entirely in possession of Turkey; therefore the issues into Roumelia would probably be guarded either on that range, or by the flank position of the forces that would occupy Bourgas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

Any one who knows the history and the character of the Cretan people can never believe that that people, which during a period of crushing tyranny had rejected proposals offering them a more indulgent government, would have now consented to exchange one despotism for another. The Cretans at all periods have held their liberty and their annexation to Greece as their most cherished desire, and as a right acquired by their sacrifices, a right which is only not enjoyed on account of the commands of Europe.

The Cretans are no doubt grateful to that powerful country, England, that benefactress of Hellenism. But these sentiments of gratitude are far from amounting to a repudiation of their brethren.

In the hope, Sir, that you will kindly send our present address to the Government of Her Majesty, we have the honour, &c.

(Here follow about 300 signatures.)

No. 273.

Mr. Cumberbatch to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 3.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, July* 16, 1879.

AT 3 this afternoon Roumanian Prime Minister announced in the Chamber that he and his colleagues, being convinced that majority of members of that Assembly are determined to support project drawn by their Commissioner for the amendment of Article No. 7 of the Constitution, and not approving of this project, were decided to place their resignation in the hands of the Prince. Prince Charles will call upon the Presidents of the two Chambers to advise His Highness what members of the House [?] should be charged with the formation of the new Ministry after the outgoing one has presented its resignation for acceptance, and who would be certain of securing majority for legislating necessary changes in the Constitution. Prorogation of Legislative Assemblies considering upon (*sic*) [? considered probable].

No. 274.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 553.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July* 16, 1879, 10·30 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 547, I am informed confidentially by the Minister for Foreign Affairs that Midhat Pasha was recommended by the Council to make inquiry into the affair of Zeitoun. Sultan has substituted Said Pasha Governor of Castamuni, believing that appointment would be acceptable to me, and I think the appointment in every respect a good one.

No. 275.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 554.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July* 16, 1879, 11 P.M.

WITH reference to Consul-General Green's despatch to your Lordship No. 92, Minister for Foreign Affairs has sent instructions to Governor of Scutari to enforce understanding come to between the Consul and the Commander of the Turkish troops for the protection of the Christian refugees from Novi-Bazar, and to punish those who may have molested them.

No. 276.

The Marquis of Salisbury to General Hamley.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 17, 1879, 2 P.M.

IN the 17th and 19th Protocols of Congress of Berlin you will find that the Congress admitted in principle the concession of a military road to Turkey through the Sandjak of Sophia, the details of which were to be settled by the Frontier Commission with the local authorities.

Has the Commission taken any steps with regard to this question? If not, you had better consult with your Turkish colleagues.

No. 277.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 17, 2·8 P.M.)

(No. 22.) *Belgrade, July* 17, 1879, 10·40 A.M.
(Telegraphic.)

WILL at once carry out instructions in your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, but can already state that I have received satisfactory assurances from Servian Government that the Préfet of Nish will be immediately dismissed, and that the title-deeds of properties of Mussulmans he had purchased for next to nothing by undue pressure had been returned to Turkish Legation to be restored to rightful owners.

(Have communicated above to Constantinople.)

No. 278.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 17, 3·45 P.M.)

(No. 556. Confidential.) *Therapia, July* 17, 1879, 11·30 A.M.
(Telegraphic.)

IT is most probable that Haireddin will be dismissed or resign within a few hours. French Ambassador, who resolutely suspects that there is a design on the part of the Porte, in which Haireddin is concerned, to restore Sultan's direct authority in Tunis, tells me that he has informed his Government that he has reason to think Haireddin, should he leave his present office, will be appointed Governor of Tripoli to assist in bringing this about. He declares that France will never admit any interference whatever on the part of the Porte in Tunis.

Should Haireddin Pasha go, Cad [?] Pasha or Munif Effendi are spoken of as his successor.

No. 279.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 162.) *Foreign Office, July* 17, 1879, 6·5 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

YOURS No. 556.

We hear with dismay of Sultan's intention to dismiss Haireddin, and take an unknown man as his successor. This step will destroy in Europe the last remains of the belief that the Turkish Empire can be sustained.

No. 280.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 943.) *Foreign Office, July* 17, 1879.
Sir,

I HAVE informed your Excellency in my telegram No. 162, dated to-day, of the dismay with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt, from your telegram No. 556 of the same date, that it is the probable intention of the Sultan to dismiss Haireddin Pasha from the post of Grand Vizier, and to appoint Cadri Pasha, or some equally

unknown person, to be his successor. It is the wish of Her Majesty's Government that your Excellency should take the earliest opportunity of impressing upon the mind of his Imperial Majesty that such a measure would entirely destroy the last remains not only of their belief, but of that of all the European Powers, in the possibility of the Turkish Empire being sustained.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 281.

The Marquis of Salisbury to General Hamley.

(No. 32.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 17, 1879.

YOU are probably aware that in the 17th and 19th Protocols of the Congress of Berlin the Plenipotentiaries of the Powers admitted in principle the concession to Turkey of a military road through the Sandjak of Sophia, the details of which were to be settled by the Commission for the delimitation of the Bulgarian frontier in communication with the local authorities of the Principality.

You will have learnt, from my telegram of this day's date, that Her Majest Government are anxious to know whether the Commission have yet taken any ste with regard to this question, and, in the event of their not having done so, I have instructed you to consult with your Turkish colleagues on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 282.

The Marquis of Salisbury to General Menabrea.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, July* 17, 1879.

IN the second of the two *Pro-memoriâ* which I had the honour to receive from your Excellency on the 11th instant, reference is made to certain proposals put forward by the Italian and French Delegates on the Commission for marking out the boundary of Montenegro, with a view to hastening forward this work, which are said to have been accepted by the Ottoman Delegates, although the latter, as it is stated, refuse to proceed to the scene of their labours in consequence of the Commissioners of the other Powers not having as yet assented to the proposals in question.

In regard to the wish expressed in your Excellency's Memorandum that the British Commissioner might be instructed to agree to the proposals above referred to, I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have recommended the Turkish Government to accept the principle of a majority of votes in deciding ordinary questions, and are disposed to recommend a re-survey in litigated points.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 283.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 18.)

(No. 120. Political.)
My Lord, *Rustchuk, July* 5, 1879.

YESTERDAY afternoon I had the honour to inform your Lordship by telegram that Prince Alexander would arrive here definitely on Tuesday next, the 8th instant; that he would take the oath required by the Bulgarian Constitution the following day, review the troops on Thursday, and on Friday leave for Sofia, by way of Plevna. That having in consequence a short time yet at my disposal, I would avail myself of it to go to Rustchuk, there to obtain some information required from the Vice-Consul, and return to Tirnova on Monday.

The information alluded to regarded chiefly the demolition of the fortifications at Rustchuk itself and the embarkation of the Russian troops. I am happy to be able

to report that both measures are considerably advanced; the details I shall have the honour to communicate to your Lordship in a future despatch, as well as what else concerns this Vice-Consular post. To-night I set out on my return to Tirnovo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 284.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 18.)

(No. 122. Political.) *Tirnovo, July 8, 1879.*

My Lord,

TO-DAY I had the honour to report in substance by telegram to your Lordship as follows:—

"This afternoon, at 4 o'clock, Prince Alexander arrival from Rustchuk. His Highness wore the uniform of a Bulgarian general officer, with a plume, and was attended by one German and two Bulgarian Aide-de-camps, by his Secretary Stoiloff, and by Colonel Schepeleff. Prince Dondoukoff, with a small suite, was in the company. At the entry of the town, the Bishop, his clergy, and the principal municipal authorities presented the customary bread and salt; a couple of addresses were pronounced, and the Prince answered in a few words of Bulgarian, learnt by heart. The general impression was good."

The rest of the telegram was concerned with my letter of accreditation, a matter now arranged by your Lordship's goodness in a telegram which I have just received, and which I shall have the honour to acknowledge in a separate despatch.

I may now add that in the course of the evening the town was illuminated, and that several demonstrations of popular good-will took place in front of the house occupied by His Highness, who acknowledged them as well as his imperfect knowledge of the Bulgarian language and ways permitted. Good order prevailed; and if, in the course of the demonstrations above mentioned, no allusion was made to the Suzerain Power, neither was any made to extra-territorial provinces or affairs. There was much less appearance of excitement, but more of contentment and satisfaction, than on former occasions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 285.

Carathéodory Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, July 18.)

Constantinople, le 17 Juillet, 1879.

(Télégraphique.)

DES télégrammes d'Erzéroum nous informent que, dans la journée de Lundi, plusieurs habitants Arméniens ont attaqué dans divers endroits de la ville des sujets Persans, et qu'il en est résulté entre Arméniens et Persans des rixes qui auraient pu avoir des suites très-regrettables si les autorités Impériales n'étaient pas intervenues pour rétablir l'ordre.

Une enquête a été ouverte à ce sujet et je m'empresserai de vous en faire connaître le résultat. Le prétexte mis en avant par les fauteurs de ce désordre serait un attentat commis sur la personne d'une jeune fille Arménienne par un Persan. Cependant, il est à remarquer qu'aussitôt instruite de ce fait, l'autorité s'était empressée de faire arrêter la personne inculpée qui se trouvait en prison cinq jours avant les faits qui se sont passés dans la journée de Lundi. Quoiqu'il en soit, en présence des tentatives incessantes de certaines gens qui ne laissent passer aucune occasion de dénaturer ou d'exagérer à notre détriment les moindres incidents, il m'a semblé utile de vous mettre à même de rectifier les versions erronées qui pourraient être mises en circulation. L'incident n'a d'autres motifs ou d'autres proportions que celles que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous signaler. Du reste, la tranquillité la plus complète règne sur tous ces points. Dervich Pacha nous informe même que la contrée insoumise de Dersim vient d'être complétement pacifiée. D'un autre côté, certaines tribus du Vilayet de Van, telles que les Motrans et autres, qui avaient un instant refusé de recevoir nos percepteurs, se sont spontanément offertes à satisfaire à toutes les exigences

du Gouvernement Impérial. Ces circonstances viendront en aide à ceux qui désireraient se convaincre qu'il n'y a rien de vrai dans les assertions qui tendent à présenter certaines provinces d'Asie comme en proie au désordre et à l'anarchie.

No. 286.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 18, 12·30 P.M.)

(No. 26.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, July 16, 1879.*

AT the Commission meeting to-day, Russian Commissioner announced that he was ready to adhere to the majority in regard to the three questions [? proposed] by British Commissioner on the 31st May, Protocol 68. French Commissioner said he was instructed to do what [? was] necessary to enable Commission to work. The Ottoman Commissioners, however, surprised us by handing in a declaration stating unanimous decisions of the Commission must be obligatory on the Governor-General, those of a majority only optional; that the eventual entrance of Turkish troops having been provided for by Treaty, Commission cannot adopt any resolution that might have the effect of hindering the adoption of measures relative [? to] such; and that the Ottoman Commissioners reserve to themselves the right of asking the Porte for instructions in special cases.

After long discussion, following resolutions were [group omitted]:—

"First. The Commission is bound to give opinion on all questions submitted to it by the Governor-General. On the initiative of one of its members, it can give Governor-General its advice on all matters having reference to application of the Statute."

This was unanimously accepted, Ottoman Commissioners reserving opinion in regard to right of Commission to interpret Statute, which interpretation, the majority held, was intimately connected with the question of application.

"Second, in all questions having reference to application of the Statute, decisions shall be taken by an absolute majority."

This was unanimously accepted, as well as following paragraph:—

"Such decisions shall have a purely consultative character."

I joined Austrian, German, Italian Commissioners in reserving concluding part of this resolution, which was as follows:—

"Such decisions shall be only obligatory on the Governor-General in the event of their having been adopted unanimously."

Remaining Commissioners voted for latter.

"Third. The opinion of Commission given by an absolute majority shall be obligatory on the Governor-General in the matter of opportuneness of summoning Turkish troops."

This was unanimously adopted, except by the Turks [? who], under instructions, did not. Owing principally to the Turkish reservation respecting interpretation of Statute, the Commission was unable to discuss questions of telegraph and Greek petition, and adjourned until receipt of further instructions, but Turks stating that unless the latter are made to yield on the interpretation question, the Commission will be paralyzed, and Turkish cause in this province will suffer.

The question of rendering unanimous decisions obligatory might be acceptable, as one adverse vote or abstention would isolate [?] absolutely from the majority.

Austrian, Italian, German Commissioners said, personally, they would have no objection, but would refer question to their Governments. I said the same.

The Russian Commissioner attaches great importance to the matter of entrance of troops, and insisted that, unless Turks agreed with the other Commissioners, the competence of the Commission to discuss other questions would be prejudiced.

I trust the Porte will be compelled to modify its instructions at once, even on this point.

(Sent to Therapia).

No. 287.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 18.)

(No. 110.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July 17, 1879, 5 P.M.*

RUSSIAN Government have proposed here that the question of the frontier near Silistria should be referred to a Commission, which should report on the position for a bridge to the east of the land belonging to that town.

In the event of the Commission not being unanimous, it is proposed that the question should be referred to the Cabinets, but nothing is said about the opinion of a majority being decisive.

According to this proposal, the line recommended by the Commission last year would not even be taken into consideration.

The communication has been forwarded to Count Andrassy, but his opinion on it has not yet been received.

Russian Chargé d'Affaires urges its acceptance, by representing the importance of having the question settled before the Russian occupation ceases, as the presence of their troops is a salutary check upon the Roumanians.

No. 288.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 18.)

(No. 111.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July 17, 1879, 5·15 P.M.*

AUSTRIAN Consul-General in Bulgaria has been instructed to obtain information and to report upon the real state of the fortresses, and upon the extent to which their demolition has been carried out.

No. 289.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 18.)

(No. 112.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July 17, 1879, 6 P.M.*

ITALIAN Chargé d'Affaires has proposed, by order of his Government, that the Montenegrin Frontier Commission should resume its work by marking out the spots about which there is no dispute, leaving the disputed lines subject to the protest or remarks of the minority.

He stated proposal had been accepted by all the Governments except those of Her Majesty, of Austria, and of Germany.

The Austrian Government will agree to it and instruct their Commissioner accordingly.

Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople has been directed to endeavour to get the Porte to agree to the proposal of the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, already communicated to your Lordship, on the subject of the frontier.

No. 290.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 18.)

(No. 27.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, July 17, 1879, 4·45 P.M.*

OFFICER in command of militia at Bourgas reports to General Vitalis that Russians expect another consignment of 6,000,000 cartridges in that port for distribution among gymnasis.

General states that a month ago he found road between Bourgas and Yamboli occupied by trains of carts carrying cartridges to Slivno. He estimated them at 13,000,000. General Stolipine mentioned that number as available for the militia and gendarmerie. The cartridges have, however, been given to the Gymnastic Society,

which has also recently taken, at Slivno, possession of about 1,400 rifles and carbines, originally given by Generals to General Vitalis for the gendarmerie.

(Here follows a line of figures unintelligible.)

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 291.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, July 17, 1879, 5·50 P.M.*

M. BRAILAS, Second Greek Plenipotentiary, left Athens on the 15th instant for Constantinople.

No. 292.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 18.)

(No. 558.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 17, 1879, 10 P.M.*

ITALIAN Minister informs me that Russian and other members of the Montenegrin Delimitation Commission accepted Italian proposal, but that English Commissioner is absent. He begs me to ask you to direct him to return, so that the work of the Commission may continue.

No. 293.

General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 18, 12·40 P.M.)

(No. 14.)
(Telegraphic.) *Buyukdéré, July 18, 1879, 11·50 A.M.*

DOUBTLESS the Commissioners will have considered the question of the road referred to in your telegram, and will supply means of discussing it here.

I expect them to arrive here on Sunday.

No. 294.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 18, 4·30 P.M.)

(No. 559.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 18, 1879, 12·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 48, Consular, Porte has always refused Berat as Agent. Will not Berat similar to that given to Consul-General in Egypt be sufficient?

No. 295.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 99.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 18, 1879.*

YOURS No. 110. I have received similar circular. I do not propose to return any very definite answer, as it contains no definite proposal.

No. 296.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 100.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 18, 1879.

YOURS No. 112.

I have always expressed my willingness to assent to Italian proposal if Greeks would accept majority principle. Otherwise, Italian proposal would come to nothing. Turks have agreed to majority principle in details, but without further definition that admission is illusory.

No. 297.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 479.) *Foreign Office, July* 18, 1879.

Sir,

M. BARTHOLOMEI communicated to me on the 14th instant the inclosed copy of a Memorandum on the subject of the termination of the pending difficulty respecting the delimitation of the frontier between the Dobrudscha and Bulgaria.

The suggestion contained in it that the question should be referred to a Commission, and if the Commission should fail to arrive at a unanimous decision, to the Cabinets, is the same as that which, as I gather from your telegram of yesterday (No. 110), has been made to the Austro-Hungarian Government.

As the Memorandum contains no definite proposal, it is not my intention to return any very definite answer to it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 298.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 481.) *Foreign Office, July* 18, 1879.

Sir,

IT appears, from your Excellency's telegram of yesterday (No. 112), that the Austro-Hungarian Government will agree to the proposal of the Italian Government that the Montenegrin Boundary Commission should resume its work by tracing out the undisputed points, and leaving disputed points subject to the protest or remarks of the minority.

I have always expressed my readiness to assent to this proposal, provided that the principle of the decision by majority is accepted by the Turks. Unless this is secured the proposal could lead to no result. You will see, by my telegram to Sir A. H. Layard of the 16th instant (No. 159), that the Turkish Ambassador has informed me that the Porte accepts the majority principle in matters of detail, but not in matters of principle, and that I have asked his Excellency to define how the distinction is to be drawn, as without such a definition the acceptance of the principle would be illusory.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 299.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Count Károlyi.

Foreign Office, July 18, 1879.

My dear Count Károlyi,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant with reference to the outrage at Prisrend. The question of the appointment of a Consul at that place does not entirely lie with me, and I must therefore necessarily defer for two or three days any expression of the intention of Her Majesty's Government upon the point.

At the same time, I am sure you will believe that it will give us the greatest pleasure if we are able to meet your views.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 300.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Count Károlyi.

(Private.)
My dear Count Károlyi, *Foreign Office, July* 18, 1879.

I HAVE carefully considered the proposal which you were good enough to make to me on the part of Count Andrassy with reference to the Greek negotiations.

I entirely concur with the view of your Government that it is very desirable, if it is possible, to avoid a division of the Powers upon the question of Janina. Not only would such a division weaken their collective influence both with the Porte and with Greece, but it would expose the individual Powers who were ranged on opposite sides to misconstructions which it is important to avoid. If England voted that Janina should go to Turkey she would be thought, most unjustly, to be unfriendly to the aspirations of Greece, and would lose influence which it is important she should retain with the Government of that country. On the other hand, if Austria voted that Janina should go to Greece, she would be regarded, with as little reason, as an enemy to the integrity of Turkey, and her influence over the counsels of the Sultan, which it is of the highest importance to maintain, would be seriously impaired.

I should therefore very gladly avoid any expression on the part of the Ambassadors of an opinion on the subject of such a point as Janina. Whether it will be possible to do so in the form which Count Andrassy suggests I am not quite sure. I am afraid that indications which have already been given of the direction in which the views of this Government lean would rather disable us from taking precisely the line which Count Andrassy points out.

But another, and, as it seems to me, preferable mode of attaining the same end could be adopted. The objections of the Porte are levelled, not against the cession of Janina by itself, but against the adoption of any line at all corresponding to that which was suggested at Berlin. If the Porte adheres to that objection, of course the negotiations will break off; if the Porte abandons that objection, I doubt very much whether it will care to make a fight about Janina singly. The attention, therefore, of the Powers should rather be turned to the general adoption of the line suggested at Berlin than to its special definition on one particular portion of the map. If the Ambassadors at Constantinople were to agree to urge upon the Porte the general acceptance of the Berlin proposal, setting aside for the moment all question as to the definition to be assigned to that proposal, I think we should bring the intentions of the Porte more conveniently to an issue than by discussions upon a more limited question. We should test its real intentions, and whether in consequence of its obduracy, or as a result of its submission, I think it possible that we might escape the Janina controversy altogether.

I need hardly add a renewal of my assurances that we are earnestly anxious to co-operate with the Austrian Government upon this and all other Oriental questions.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 301.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 19.)

(No. 94. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, July* 4, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report that Hussein Pasha, and the Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs, have been addressing to each other recriminating telegrams concerning the asserted advance of their out-posts in the vicinity of Duleigno, and the Pasha has called upon me to endeavour to put a stop to a state of things which may suddenly end in hostilities.

I would venture to suggest that the Ottoman Boundary Commissioners should be instructed to acknowledge the decisions of the majority of their colleagues, a principle

which they had accepted, as appears from the second Protocol of their meetings, especially as the arrangement was so worded as to secure, if necessary, a subsequent reconsideration of any point reserved by the minority. I would also point out, what is perhaps not known by the Porte, that most of the boundaries concerning which the Turkish Commissioners are now making so many baseless difficulties, are already occupied by the Montenegrins.

The Turkish Government ought not to forget that every delay in the final demarcation is more injurious to its interests than to those of the Montenegrins, and it would do well to confide in the sense of justice of most of the Boundary Delegates.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 302.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 19.)

(No. 96. Political.)
Scutari, July 7, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Hussein Pasha called on me yesterday afternoon, and informed me that he had just received telegraphic notice from Dulcigno that the Montenegrin force had been greatly increased in that direction, and that it had occupied the village of Selci.

Hussein Pasha urged me to use my influence with the Montenegrin Government in order to induce it to consent to have the provisional line of frontier mentioned in the Vir Bazar Protocol clearly defined.

I need hardly assure your Lordship that I am doing my best to dissipate the misunderstanding which has arisen between the Montenegrin and Turkish authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 303.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 19.)

(No. 13. Political.)
Corfu, July 15, 1879.

My Lord,

SINCE the date of my despatch No. 12, Political, of the 10th ultimo, the only occurrences in this quarter involving any particular interest are—

1. The arrival of Dr. Heidenstam, one of the Commissioners for the district of Larnaka, Cyprus, on his way back to that island from a short leave of absence.

Dr. Heidenstam arrived a day too late to catch the steamer to Alexandria, and was, consequently, detained for a whole week. I obtained from him much interesting information respecting the state of matters in that now important island, respecting which it would ill become me to offer any comment. I only venture to state, for your Lordship's information, and, I trust, approval, that, at his request, I furnished him with a copy of the Ionian Codes containing the latest modifications; copy of the "Statuto Sagredo" of 1654, one of the ablest and most successful pieces of legislation ever devised, by which all ecclesiastical matters in these islands were regulated up to the cessation of the Protectorate, and also copy of the printed Regulations respecting the organization and discipline of the executive police.

I have moreover engaged to forward later to Dr. Heidenstam copies of the Ionian Municipal Regulations relative to "sewers and drains in the towns," "cemetries," and "public works," particularly road-making, of which, unfortunately, I am at present unprovided with duplicates.

2. Part of the refugees, who, as reported in my last, had left on a raid into Epirus, have returned, bringing with them a quantity of booty. On landing they were immediately arrested, and sent before the Courts. This is as it should be.

3. Another attempt has been made to stir up the Chimariots, into which, if I am not misinformed, one monarch, himself of Chimariot extraction, entered for something. All proposals were repelled with indignation, accompanied with a request that there may be no further renewal of any similar attempts, as the mountaineers are determined to have nothing to do with "Greek aspirations."

4. The burning question of the day is the cession of the southern districts of Epirus to Greece, which, to a certainty, will not be accomplished without bloodshed. In fact, it is impossible not to see at a glance that, should Albania be erected into an autonomous province, to curtail it of its southern seaboard and the ports of Parga, Prevesa and Salnora in the Gulf of Arta must operate as an insuperable bar to the development of its natural resources, and, consequently, of its prospective development and stability.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

No. 304.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 19.)

(No. 768.)
Paris, July 18, 1879.

My Lord,

M. CALLIMAKI CATARGI, the Roumanian Agent here, brought to me yesterday the inclosed copy of a despatch on the Jewish question, which he had received from his Government, and he requested me to forward it to your Lordship.

M. Callimaki Catargi enlarged on the extreme difficulty, not to say impossibility, of dealing with the question in the present state of public feeling in Roumania.

He proceeded to say that Russia had demanded that the delimitation of the frontier between Roumania and Bulgaria should be continued; and he begged me to prefer to your Lordship on behalf of his Government a request that the instructions formerly given to the British Commissioner respecting Arab-Tabia might be maintained.

Later in the day I saw M. Waddington, who told me that M. Callimaki Catargi had communicated to him also a copy of the despatch respecting the Jewish question.

His Excellency mentioned, moreover, that M. Callimaki Catargi had likewise conveyed to him a request to maintain the instructions to the French Commissioner respecting Arab-Tabia.

M. Waddington said that, with regard to this last point, he had telegraphed to Berlin to ascertain the present views of the German Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 304.

M. Campineano to M. Callimaki Catargi.

M. l'Agent, *Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, Bucarest, le* $\frac{27 \text{ Juin}}{9 \text{ Juillet}}$, 1879.

DEPUIS la Convention de Paris jusqu'à la veille des événements qui viennent de se dérouler en Orient, la Roumanie a dû consacrer toute son activité à se créer les conditions d'ordre, intérieur et extérieur, qu'elle avait indiquées au Congrès de Paris comme absolument nécessaires à son existence, et dont ce dernier n'avait pas suffisamment tenu compte.

Malgré les difficultés que présentait cette œuvre, la Roumanie eut assez de vigueur et de bonheur pour atteindre, en grande partie, le but désiré. Elle conservera toujours une profonde gratitude pour les Grandes Puissances qui, convaincues enfin de la nécessité de ces transformations, n'y mirent plus obstacle, et s'empressèrent même de les approuver.

Dans ce court espace de temps, la Roumanie dût faire des réformes et exécuter des travaux qui, dans d'autres pays, ont exigé une longue suite de labeurs et de sacrifices. Sa législation était en retard sur celle de l'Europe Occidentale; elle chercha à y introduire les modifications nécessaires pour la mettre au niveau de celles des sociétés civilisées. Son Administration, sa magistrature, ses finances, son armée, n'existaient que de nom; elle s'appliqua à les créer ou à les réorganiser, et elle y apporte encore tous les jours tous les améliorations réclamées par l'expérience. Ses voies de communication se réduisaient, il y a vingt ans, à quelques tronçons de chaussées;

aujourd'hui, en outre des grandes routes construites, elle possède un réseau de chemins de fer desservant tous les grands centres du pays, et le mettant en communication par quatre jonctions avec le reste de l'Europe, et un grand nombre de chaussées venant de toutes les directions alimenter les voies ferrées. Les paysans étaient attachés à la glèbe; ils furent émancipés et devinrent propriétaires du sol qu'ils cultivaient; l'indemnité due de ce chef aux anciens propriétaires montait à plus de 107,000,000 fr.; elle est aujourd'hui presque entièrement payée. Le pays avait eu, en même temps, à acquitter l'indemnité due aux anciens possesseurs d'esclaves Bohémiens, affranchis quelques années auparavant. Ces esclaves et les paysans sont aujourd'hui des citoyens libres, et jouissent dignement de tout les droits civils et politiques.

Ces réformes, je le répète, avaient exigé dans d'autres pays possédant des ressources autrement grandes, des siècles de travail et de sacrifices; chez nous elles ont dû s'accomplir par les efforts d'une seule génération; aussi ont elles exigé des sacrifices tellement lourds qu'il n'est nullement surprenant que les derniers événements ne nous aient pas trouvés dans l'état de prospérité qui eût été désirable. Cependant, malgré l'épuisement résultant de pareils efforts, la Roumanie ne se montra dépourvue ni de la vigueur ni des ressources nécessaires pour faire face aux circonstances.

En présence des événements qui agitaient la presqu'île des Balcans, la Roumanie demeura calme, et prit des mesures telles que le mouvement de la rive droite du Danube ne pût être en aucune façon, secondé par le concours d'éléments venant de notre pays. Plus tard, lorsqu'il fut évident que la crise Orientale allait prendre des proportions telles que notre territoire ne pouvait manquer de s'y trouver enveloppé, la Roumanie s'adressa aux Grandes Puissances. Elle fit des démarches réitérées; elle demanda une déclaration de neutralité qui l'aurait mise à l'abri de tout événement, ou tout au moins un conseil, une indication sur l'attitude qu'il convenait à l'Europe de lui voir garder, sur la ligne de conduite qu'elle désirait lui voir suivre pendant la guerre qui frappait à ses portes. Vous connaissez, M. l'Agent, la réserve absolue que les Puissances crurent devoir garder en présence de nos démarches. Privée de tout appui, de tout conseil, la Roumanie fut forcée de se tracer elle-même une ligne de conduite, et de choisir celle qui lui était indiquée par la gravité des dangers immédiats auxquels elle était exposée. Cependant, je vous l'ai déjà fait remarquer, elle ne se décida à prendre une part active à la guerre qu'au moment où elle se vit exposée à devenir elle-même le théâtre des hostilités, et où son existence même se trouva mise en question.

La conduite des Roumains leur donnait le droit de compter sur la justice de l'Europe. Ils étaient autorisés à espérer que lors du nouveau règlement des affaires Orientales, ils obtiendraient des avantages matériels et politiques, en rapport, non-seulement avec les sacrifices qu'ils avaient faits, mais aussi avec leur attitude sage, correcte, et indépendante. Malheureusement des considérations de convenances, que nous n'avons pas à apprécier ici, prévalurent au Congrès de Berlin, et les Puissances Signataires du Traité crurent devoir ne pas tenir compte de nos droits, et exiger des Roumains des sacrifices nouveaux et autrement douloureux.

Pour ne pas créer de nouvelles difficultés, pour ne pas entraver l'œuvre de pacification de l'Orient, la Roumanie, après avoir affirmé ses droits devant le Congrès, dût céder devant la volonté de l'Europe et se résigner à subir les dures stipulations du Traité.

Elle ne demandait aucune espèce de compensation, car elle n'entendait point faire un marché. Elle n'éleva même pas une réclamation concernant les indemnités qui lui étaient légitimement dues pour les frais de la guerre, pour ses villes ouvertes des bords du Danube, bombardées avant toute déclaration de guerre.

Désireuse de faciliter l'œuvre de paix, elle garda le silence sur le sort de ses frères de la rive droite du Danube. Toutes les nationalités éparses dans la presqu'île Balcanique firent entendre leurs réclamations, les droits de chacun furent défendus, discutés, garantis. Tous oublièrent que plus de 3,000,000 de Roumains se trouvent répandus dans les provinces que l'Europe organisait sur de nouvelles bases; la Roumanie s'imposa le devoir de ne point mettre en évidence cet oubli; ce fut uniquement pour éviter des difficultés qui pouvaient faire naître de nouvelles complications.

Le Traité de Berlin imposa à la Roumanie des sacrifices pénibles; elle se soumit aux volontés des Puissances. Elle céda la Bessarabie et prit possession de la Dobroudja qu'on lui donnait à titre de compensation, et qui, en réalité, ne lui apporte, pour longtemps encore, que de nouvelles et lourdes charges.

A la suite de tous ces lourds sacrifices, supportés avec une constance qui ne s'est jamais démentie, une épreuve nouvelle s'impose à la Roumanie. Le Congrès de Berlin

a cru devoir demander à la Roumanie la solution immédiate de la question Juive; il a fait plus, il a jusqu'à un certain point indiqué la solution de cette question toute intérieure. Question des plus délicates, qui n'aurait dû être traitée que dans des moments de calme, graduellement et sans secousse.

Quoique l'Europe supporte sans protester, dans plusieurs de ses Etats, plus importants, plus développés, plus anciens dans la civilisation que nous, des exclusions positivement religieuses et bien autrement graves que celles qui existent chez nous, nous aurions néanmoins compris que le Congrès se fût préoccupé de cette question à propos des affaires de la Roumanie. Nous aurions compris qu'il exprimât un vœu dans la discussion; qu'il inscrivit même une déclaration dans ses Protocoles; qu'il fît savoir aux Roumains que les Puissances n'entreraient pas en relations officielles avec eux avant qu'ils ne se soient conformés aux principes modernes, en reconnaissant que la religion ne peut être un motif d'inégalité pour la jouissance des droits politiques et civiles; c'est-à-dire avant qu'ils n'aient supprimé de l'Article 7 de la Constitution la disposition qui lui donne un caractère d'exclusivisme religieux. Devant une pareille déclaration les Roumains n'auraient pas fait de difficulté pour se rendre au vœu de l'Europe.

Malheureusement le Congrès ne s'en est pas tenu à une déclaration de cette nature. Il a fait de cette question une des clauses du Traité, et lui a donné une forme telle qu'elle apparaît comme une véritable injonction adressée au Roumains d'avoir à régler, sans retard et dans un esprit déterminé, une question d'ordre purement intérieur, d'une grande importance politique, nationale, et sociale. Cette exigence comparée à la mansuétude de l'Europe à l'égard d'autres nations de l'Orient, a répandu parmi les Roumains une grande inquiétude.

On ne peut, en effet, assimiler la solution de la question Israélite en Roumanie avec l'émancipation des populations asservies de l'Orient. Ces dernières formées des anciens habitants du sol, des indigènes, des autochtones, avaient été subjuguées par un conquérant étranger, qui avait agi comme tel.

Les Israélites de Roumanie, au contraire, sont étrangers au pays et n'y sont venus que depuis peu de temps pour les besoins de leur commerce ou plutôt de leur trafic. Un petit nombre seulement parmi eux s'y trouvent depuis plusieurs générations. Ce sont les Juifs Espagnols, venus de Turquie en Valachie, à l'état de rayas, de même que les Grecs, les Bulgares, les Arméniens, &c. Ces Israélites avaient commencé à s'assimiler à la population Roumaine et aucune difficulté n'existait pour qu'ils obtinssent tous l'égalité des droits, comme l'ont obtenue les autres populations d'origine étrangère; aussi la Constitution de 1848, en Valachie, les leur accorda sans restriction, et ce n'est qu'à la suite du changement imposé au pays par l'invasion étrangère que ces droits leur furent enlevés.

En 1866 la question fut de nouveau posée, mais alors l'union de Principautés était faite et la Moldavie se trouvait dans une position toute différente de celle de la Valachie. Une grande immigration d'Israélites dits Polonais, venant de Russie et de Gallicie, avait envahi son territoire. Munis de passeports qui étaient valables seulement pour leur sortie du pays d'origine, ces Israélites en trouvaient les frontières fermées pour y retourner, et la Moldavie était de cette façon devenue forcément le déversoir de la population flottante et indigente des grands Etats voisins. Ces Israélites vivaient dans le pays à l'état de sujets étrangers et, grâce à la juridiction Consulaire, naguère en vigueur chez nous, ils avaient tous les avantages de la protection étrangère, sans supporter aucune des charges auxquelles ils auraient été astreints dans les Etats dont ils se déclaraient sujets. Après l'union des Principautés, cette masse d'Israélites de nouvelle provenance, soutenus par l'action de l'Alliance Israélite Universelle, exercèrent une grande influence sur leurs coreligionnaires de Valachie. L'œuvre d'assimilation, qui était très-avancée chez ces derniers, fut bientôt interrompue et un grand nombre parmi eux se rallièrent à l'esprit et aux tendances des Juifs étrangers de la Moldavie. Bientôt on ne vit d'autre différence entre ceux-ci et les premiers que celle de la langue, les uns parlant l'Espagnol et les autres un patois mélangé d'Allemand.

Pendant ce temps, l'Etat Roumain, occupé de sa transformation politique intérieure et extérieure, avait négligé les questions qui semblaient à cette époque secondaires, et les lois relatives aux étrangers ne contenaient aucune disposition qui put les empêcher de s'organiser et de se constituer de façon à former de véritables Etats dans l'Etat. Profitant de cette situation, les Israélites, qui avaient trouvé chez nous une tolérance religieuse pleine et entière, et une complète liberté d'allure, surent se constituer en communauté distincte, ayant une autonomie presque absolue, non-seulement au point de vue religieux, mais encore au point de vue administratif et

financier; ils trouvèrent même moyen, par le concours de l'Alliance Israélite, de s'ériger en une forte association politique, ayant ses agents dans tout le pays et recevant l'impulsion et la direction d'un centre établi en dehors de la Roumanie.

Plus tard, lorsque la juridiction Consulaire eut entièrement cessé d'exister chez nous, un nombre plus ou moins grand des membres de cette association trouvèrent, il est vrai, leur intérêt à ne plus se prévaloir de la protection étrangère; mais parmi ces derniers beaucoup changèrent souvent de tactique, selon les intérêts du moment, et se déclarèrent tantôt sujets Roumains, tantôt étrangers.

Les tirages au sort pour l'armée furent surtout l'occasion de ces transformations subites et successives. C'est ainsi que la plupart des Juifs sont restés étrangers au milieu de la nation, non-seulement par leur religion, mais par la langue, le costume, les mœurs, et les aspirations, en un mot, par tout ce qui constitue le caractère distinctif d'un homme dans la société.

Cela étant, il est facile de comprendre que la question Juive ainsi posée a dû jeter l'inquiétude dans les esprits. Le pays se demande avec appréhension qu'elle est la portée des stipulations du Traité de Berlin relatives à cette question. Les Puissances ont elles voulu seulement faire disparaître l'exclusion religieuse de l'Article 7 de la Constitution, ou tendent-elles à imposer à la Roumanie des solutions absolues contraires au droit public de tous le Etats Européens, et de nature à mettre en péril tous nos intérêts économiques, sociaux, et nationaux? L'inquiétude est d'autant plus grande qu'on sent bien que de pareilles solutions ne pourraient être supportées même par des sociétés autrement puissantes, solidement et depuis longtemps constituées, et réunissant toutes les conditions voulues pour pouvoir résister à l'envahissement d'éléments absolument étrangers au reste de la nation.

Dans une situation comme la nôtre, la question même des droits civils à accorder aux étrangers devient excessivement difficile. Si, en effet, il n'y a aucun inconvénient à redouter lorsqu'il s'agit d'un certain nombre d'étrangers qui passent d'un Etat à l'autre pour leurs affaires commerciales ou industrielles, il en est tout-à-fait autrement lorsqu'on est en présence d'une véritable invasion étrangère, qui se chiffre par centaines de mille d'individus. Ce qui prouve d'une façon plus éclatante que cette crainte seule nous préoccupe c'est qu'avant l'existence de ce danger, la Roumanie a accordé chez elle aux étrangers des droits et des avantages bien plus considérables que dans d'autres Etats, et qu'elle l'a fait de son propre mouvement, sans aucune pression extérieure. Mais, en présence de ces masses d'immigrants, son instinct de conservation lui dictait une conduite plus circonspecte. Il s'agissait, en effet, d'une population nombreuse, hétérogène sous tous les rapports, pénétrant dans le pays en grandes masses, et représentant en Moldavie presque le quart de la population totale; ce n'étaient point des Anglais, des Français, des Italiens, des Allemands, c'étaient des hommes sans patrie déterminée, sans autre nationalité que leur qualité d'Israélites, et jouissant, selon les circonstances, de la protection de telle ou telle autre Puissance étrangère. C'étaient des hommes qui cherchaient leurs moyens d'existence, non pas dans le travail qui contribue au développement de la production et de la richesse d'un pays, mais dans le trafic et l'usure qui le ruinent.

Par ces moyens, et sous la protection même de nos propres lois, les Israélites se sont rendus maîtres d'une notable partie des capitaux du pays et les ont placés en hypothèques sur des immeubles. En Moldavie surtout une grande partie de la propriété rurale se trouve engagée entre leurs mains. Si par conséquent on en étendait à tous les étrangers sans distinction le droit d'acheter des biens ruraux qui avait été accordé en 1864, avec des restrictions qui rassuraient les intérêts nationaux, bientôt la propriété rurale de la Moldavie passerait entière entre les mains des Juifs.

C'est là, M. l'Agent, le point le plus délicat de la question, et la cause principale de l'inquiétude et de l'agitation qui règnent dans le pays. La propriété rurale joue, en effet, le principale rôle dans l'organisation politique du pays, notamment dans la constitution des colléges électoraux qui nomment le Sénat, et concourent aussi à la formation de la Chambre des Députés. Si cette propriété passait entre les mains des étrangers, les colléges électoraux, déjà peu nombreux, seraient désorganisés, annulés, et le recrutement du Sénat surtout rendu bien difficile.

Si ces étrangers, avant de s'assimiler à la nation Roumaine, obtenaient aussi les droits politiques, comme ils reçoivent leur direction du dehors, on verrait bientôt se produire en Roumanie une espèce de dualisme de tendances qui serait fatal à notre nationalité.

Voilà, M. l'Agent, les difficultés en présence desquelles se trouve le pays, et qui auront pour effet d'obliger les Chambres à chercher, en même temps qu'elles suppriment l'Article 7 de la Constitution, les mesures qui doivent mettre la société et la

nationalité Roumaines à l'abri des dangers que je vous signalais. Dans des circonstances de cette gravité, il n'est nullement étonnant que les opinions les plus exagerées puissent se produire, car l'inquiétude et la crainte donnent souvent lieu à des pareils résultats. Pour apaiser les esprits, pour calmer les appréhensions, il faut beaucoup de précautions et de ménagements, il faut savoir concilier le respect dû aux principes avec les garanties exigées par l'intérêt de la conservation nationale.

C'est à atteindre ce but, aussi largement que faire se peut, que tendent tous les efforts du Gouvernement Princier, et il espère que les Puissances l'aideront dans cette voie, en écartant toute exigence d'un caractère absolu, qui pourrait encore venir du dehors.

Veuillez vous inspirer de ses idées, et les exprimer dans toutes les conversations que vous aurez. S'il vous est demandé communication de cet acte, vous êtes autorisé à le faire.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) CAMPINEANO.

No. 305.

Mr. Löwy to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 19.)

Anglo-Jewish Association, 160, *Portsdown Road, London, W.*,
July 18, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship's notice, by direction of the President of this Association, a précis of M. Bratiano's "five categories" relative to the Roumanian Jews.

A brief comment is added to the several points of the "categories." The comment rests on facts which M. Bratiano would not be disposed to controvert.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. LOWY, *Secretary.*

Inclosure in No. 305.

Memorandum concerning the Prospects of Jewish Emancipation in Roumania.

AFTER a long series of irritating articles against the Roumanian Jews in the official and the non-official organs of the ultra parties and the Government of Roumania, the "Romanul," a Ministerial journal, of the 5th July, publishes the following project of M. Bratiano:—

The Jewish population of Roumania should only be permitted as claimants to emancipation under the following five categories—

Emancipation shall be granted—

1. To those who have served in the army.
2. To those who have acquired a certificate for B.A. at Roumanian schools.
3. To those who have established large industrial factories.
4. To those who have made large donations to public benevolent institutions.
5. To those who have published scientific or literary works in the Roumanian language.

The objections to this proposal may be briefly pointed out in the following notes:

1. The Roumanian Law of Conscription did not come into operation before 1868. That law stipulated that Jews should not be promoted in the army. Many Jews, who otherwise would have served, availed themselves of the right of sending substitutes. Hence there were comparatively few Jews who have served in the army.

2. Roumania has not a sufficient number of schools. It had less in former years, the law of public instruction being dated since 1865. Obligatory attendance is a theory which has not yet been put into pratice.

The persecution of the Jews in Roumania reacted on the attendance at schools. The expulsion of Jews having been raised to a dogma; the progress of Jewish pupils at schools has been systematically impeded by schoolmasters themselves. The number of Jews who have received a diploma for B.A. is therefore very limited. It is very limited even amongst Roumanian Christians. Jewish youths of the present time are

nevertheless very studious in Roumania. M. Bratiano's scheme is calculated to exclude for the moment those who have not yet the diploma.

3. Roumanian industry is yet in its infancy. How could the Jews establish factories, whilst they were prevented from acquiring property in the country, or of carrying on unrestricted trade in towns. Still, the number of industrial persons amongst Christians is not greater than that of the Jews, but the aggregate number of both sections of religion is very small.

4. The large donors to benevolent institutions must naturally be exceedingly few. Those who benefited their country by such donations generally did so in their last will, and are no longer to be reckoned amongst the living.

5. The concession made to Jewish scholars would scarcely deserve to be placed in a special category, considering that the culture of literature is in Roumania a thing of the future.

A question has been propounded, how could the Jews in Roumania be compared with the Jews in other countries? The answer was given within a few days after this list of categories had appeared. The population of Roumania, inasmuch as non-Jewish denominations are concerned, cannot be compared with the Christians in other countries. The foregoing categories form a sequel as well as a prelude to the evasions, systematically adopted in Roumania to invalidate the emancipatory clauses in the Treaty of Berlin.

160, *Portsdown Road, London, W.*,
July 17, 1879.

No. 306.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 19.)

(No. 23.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, July* 18, 1879, 4·30 P.M.

AS directed by your Lordship, I have addressed very earnest remonstrances to Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs against the maltreatment of the Mussulman population. He states that he is fully aware of vital importance to Servia of securing sympathy of Europe and, specially of Her Majesty's Government, and that, consequently, your Lordship may rest assured that no effort will be spared to remove every just cause of complaint.

He, however, desires me to point out that, to a great extent, Mussulmans in Principalities are the victims of unfavourable circumstances [?] for which the Servian Government can scarcely be held responsible, and that in no instance have they been exposed to personal violence.

No. 307.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 19.)

(No. 24. Most Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, July* 18, 1879, 7 P.M.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs is very anxious about attitude Great Powers will maintain towards Roumania in regard to Jewish question on account of effect it may have on this country. He says that he feels assured of a satisfactory solution of the question in Servia provided that no concession is made to Roumania before it has received final sanction of the Great [?] Skuptchina shortly convoked.

No. 308.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 19.)

(No. 61.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July* 18, 1879, 6·17 P.M.

NO change in the situation.

Contention of new Russian Commissioner is that in principle Great Britain has no voice in the determination of the point west of Kara, and, therefore, that [?] Commission has no option but to accept point where previous frontier intersects the parallel of that village as the point of departure for its work.

Such assertions, in face of three signed Protocols which record acts of his predecessor, almost make negotiations a farce, and I cannot but protest against such waste of our time.

I have always upheld in principle that Great Britain has that right, otherwise we should have been bound to point [?] no matter how extravagant the pretension [?].

No. 309.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul Kirby Green.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 19, 1879, 1·25 P.M.

LET me know by telegraph if Captain Sale is now with the Boundary Commission.

No. 310.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 144.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 19, 1879, 1·30 P.M.

THE following figures have been received from Philippopolis, dated the 17th instant:—

[See No. 290.]

Call M. Giers' attention to this, and intimate delicately that if this distribution goes on, Turks will be forced to occupy Bourgas in order to stop it.

No. 311.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 145.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 19, 1879, 4·45 P.M.

I HAVE received the following figures from Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke, dated yesterday:—

[See No. 309.]

Pray represent to M. Giers that the conduct of the Russian Commissioner is entirely contrary to the engagements of Count Schouvaloff and to the admissions of the late Russian Commissioner, and express a hope that the Commission will be allowed to go on with its work.

We have done our best to smooth matters on the Montenegrin frontier, but we cannot be expected to continue that policy if a line so hostile is pursued by Commissioner in Armenia.

No. 312.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 144.)
Foreign Office, July 19, 1879.

My Lord,

HER Majesty's Consul-General at Philippopolis having reported to me on the 17th instant, in a telegram which I caused to be repeated to your Excellency, that the Russian authorities in Eastern Roumelia expected a fresh consignment of cartridges to arrive at Bourgas for distribution among the Gymnastic Societies of that province, and that a large number of cartridges which had a short time since been sent to Slivno, avowedly for the use of the militia and gendarmerie, were there taken possession

of by that Society, I have this day requested your Excellency in my telegram No. 144, to take an opportunity of speaking to M. de Giers on the subject.

Your Excellency will do well to point out delicately, without conveying the idea of a threat, that if this distribution of arms continues, Her Majesty's Government foresee that the Porte will find itself compelled to order the occupation of the Port of Bourgas by Turkish troops, with the object of putting a stop to such proceedings.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 313.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 393.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, July 19, 1879.*

I HAVE this day informed your Excellency, in my telegram No. 145, that I have received from Colonel Clarke a telegram reporting that the Russian member of the Commission for the delimitation of the Asiatic frontier contends that in principle Great Britain has no voice in the determination of the point west of Karaourgan, and that, therefore, the Commission has no option but to accept, as the point of departure for its work, the spot where the old frontier intersected the parallel of that village.

Your Excellency will represent to M. de Giers that the line of argument adopted by the Russian Commissioner is entirely contrary to the engagement entered into between Count Schouvaloff and myself, as well as to the facts admitted by the late Russian Commissioner, as recorded in three signed Protocols, and you will express to him the hopes of Her Majesty's Government that such instructions will be sent to the Russian Commissioner as will enable the Commission to proceed with its work.

Your Excellency will further remind M. de Giers that Her Majesty's Government have used their best endeavours to bring about a satisfactory settlement of questions pending on the Montenegrin frontier, and they have a right to expect from the Russian Government a reciprocal exhibition of the same conciliatory views in the demarcation of the Asiatic frontier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 314.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 110.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, July 19, 1879, 1·45 P.M.*

GIERS now says that [? he] misunderstood Labanoff's telegram about the disputed town near Karnourgan. As Colonel Clarke says, the matter seems to be still unsettled, and Labanoff is to write again about it, having been too busy to write by his last courier.

No. 315.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 113.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July 19, 1879, 5·30 P.M.*

I AM inclined to believe that if the Porte, on naming its Greek Frontier Commissioners, announced that they would not be authorized to discuss cession of Janina, Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs might be brought to support an alternative line suggested by Her Majesty's Government.

It would perhaps do equally well if the Turkish Commissioners announced at first meeting that they were prohibited from entertaining the question.

I am in no way authorized by Austrian Government to make this suggestion, which has merely struck me as a possible way of getting their adherence to the views of Her Majesty's Government.

No. 316.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 25.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, July 19, 1879, 7 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Commissioner telegraphs as follows:—

"Question of frontier here (Prepolac) has been referred to Porte by Ottoman Commissioner; pending decision, frontier has been marked out on the map, but not on the ground."

(Above communicated to Sir H. Layard.)

No. 317.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 20, 11 A.M.)

(No. 62.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 20, 1879, 9·20 A.M.*

RUSSIAN Commissioner having formally asserted that Great Britain has no voice in the determination of the point (*sic*) west of Kura, and this being a question with which I am not competent to deal, I beg that your Lordship will give me instructions.

No. 318.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 20, 11·45 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, July 20, 1879, 12·30 A.M.*

CAPTAIN SALE is here with all the members of the Commission except Montenegrin and Russian, who are in Montenegro.

No. 319.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 332.)
My Lord, *Rome, July 14, 1879.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 141, repeating one from Sir H. Elliot of the 11th instant, I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship that, in an interview I had this afternoon with Count Tornielli, I informed him that, in the opinion of Sir Henry Elliot, the Italian Chargé d'Affaires had attached undue importance to a remark of the German Ambassador in regard to the employment of force in the event of the Roumanian Government not accepting the proposal to introduce into the Constitution the wording of the XLIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin respecting religious liberty, and that Sir Henry Elliot had not looked upon that remark as a serious suggestion.

Count Tornielli said he should be very glad if Sir Henry Elliot's opinion were correct, but that, at the same time, he could not help mentioning that the Italian Agent at Bucharest, in a telegram dated the 11th instant, after stating that the Austrian Minister had not yet received an answer from Count Andrassy to his inquiry whether he was to repeat in writing the verbal communication which he had made a few days before to the Roumanian Minister upon the subject in question, added that he had been told by his Austrian colleague in strict confidence, that he knew for a fact that Prince Bismarck was strongly urging upon Count Andrassy to withdraw his recognition of Roumania in the event of non-compliance by the Roumanian Government with the condition now put forward; and that on Count Andrassy saying that the interests of Austria would hardly permit of his going so far as this, Prince

Bismarck had replied that, while he understood this, in the special position of Austria, he for himself was determined not to admit refusal, and even went so far as to say that he should apply to the Porte to put in execution the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin.

Count Tornielli read me the telegram from the Italian Agent in which this was stated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 320.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 333.) *Rome, July 14, 1879.*
My Lord,

IN compliance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 356 A of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have expressed to the Italian Government through Count Tornielli the recognition by Her Majesty's Government of the personal friendliness shown by the Italian members of the Eastern Roumelian Commission to Sir H. Drummond Wolff and to Lord Donoughmore.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 321.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 317.) *St. Petersburgh, July 16, 1879.*
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, in obedience to your Lordship's despatch No. 351, of the 30th June, I have expressed to M. de Giers the recognition by Her Majesty's Government of the personal friendliness shown by the Russian members of the Commission to their British colleagues.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 322.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 21.)

No. 323.) *St. Petersburgh, July 16, 1879.*
(Extract.)

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, a translation from the "Official Gazette," containing an Imperial Ukase, which repeals those of the 12th and 28th April, 1877, placing the Government of Bessarabia, the littoral districts of Kherson and the Crimean Peninsula, under military law, in view of the then existing war.

The Ukase of the 5/17th April, 1879, establishing temporary Governors-General, with special powers, is still to remain in force.

Inclosure in No. 322.

Extract from the "Official Gazette" of July 13, 1879.

(Translation.)

THE "Official Gazette" of the 1st July, 1879, contains an Imperial Ukase, dated the 20th June/2nd July, 1879, rescinding the Ukases of the 12th and 28th April, 1877, which, in view of war being declared, placed the Government of Bessarabia, the littoral districts of Kherson and Taurida, and the Crimean Peninsula, under military law.

No. 320*.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 316.)
My Lord,

St. Petersburgh, July 16, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to state with reference to your telegram No. 129 of the 2nd July, that M. de Giers informed me, in a conversation I had with him on Wednesday, the 9th instant, that he understood the difficulties with regard to the delimitation of the new Asiatic frontier between Turkey and Russia had been adjusted in a sense that tallied with the views of the British Commissioner, and that the Russian Commissioner had telegraphed to him not to make any official use of the map upon which he had laid down the frontier in the neighbourhood of Karaourgan, from whence M. de Giers concluded that the line laid down by the Turkish Commissioner would be the one adopted.

I think it would be convenient if I could be furnished with a tracing of the conflicting lines above referred to, as M. de Giers does not seem to me to have very clear notions of the points in issue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

The Ukase of the 9th August, 1878, introducing Military Tribunals for political offences, and that of the 5th April, 1879, establishing temporary Governors-General, with special powers, are to remain in force.

No. 323.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 324.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, July 16, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, in pursuance of the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 366 of the 9th instant on the subject of the late application of the Servian Government to the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin for some modification of their frontier, as laid down by that Treaty, I addressed a note to M. de Giers (copy of which is herewith inclosed), in the sense of your Lordship's above-mentioned despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 323.

The Earl of Dufferin to M. de Giers.

M. le Secrétaire d'Etat, *St. Petersburgh, July* $\frac{3}{15}$, 1879.

I HAVE been instructed by the Marquis of Salisbury to put your Excellency in possession of the views of Her Majesty's Government with reference to the application made by the Servian Government for a modification of the frontier, as determined by the European Commission, in the neighbourhood of Vranja, and for the settlement of that portion of the frontier-line which has not already been fixed in such a manner as to give Servia the means of defence against incursion or attack from the population of the bordering territory.

The inclosed extract of a despatch from Lord Salisbury to Her Majesty's Minister resident in Servia will fully acquaint your Excellency with the views of Her Majesty's Government on this matter.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 324.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 356. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, July 16, 1879.*

I HAVE had an opportunity of speaking to M. Liteano, the Roumanian Agent here, who has just returned from Bucharest.

He had gone there in a hurry, at the instigation, I imagine, of the German Government, with the view of impressing upon his own Government the necessity of coming as soon as possible to some satisfactory solution of the difficulty which has been created by the non-fulfilment of the Berlin Treaty as regards Jewish disabilities in Roumania.

No doubt M. Liteano's visit was also connected with the question of the Roumanian railroads, negotiations for the purchase of which from the German Company are now, he tells me, being carried on in Berlin.

With respect to the other question, M. Liteano said that on his arrival at Bucharest he found the Government very much embarrassed as to how they should act. Like himself they felt that the existing difficulty might be arranged by the substitution of the XLIVth Article of the Berlin Treaty for the 7th Article of the Constitution; but the opposition in the Chambers, and, indeed, generally, to any such concession being made was so violent that it would hardly be possible to overcome it, although they hoped that some middle course might be found which would satisfy the demands

of the Western Powers, and at the same time not prove so unacceptable to the great majority of the people.

M. Liteano, it seems, brought back with him, to be submitted to the German Government, certain proposals which I understood him to say had emanated from the Commission that had been appointed to report upon the question at issue.

Upon their merits, however, the German Government had not as yet pronounced any opinion, favourable or unfavourable, preferring to wait until the effect of the unofficial steps now being taken by the Austrian Government in furtherance of the views of the Western Powers could be ascertained.

I gathered that the basis of these proposals was the emancipation of the Jewish population by categories.

All Jews who had either served in the Roumanian army or been brought up in Roumanian schools were to be emancipated collectively, and at once; while those who did not belong to this class, and were neither under the protection of a foreign Power, nor had any distinct nationality of their own, would, on condition that each one had previously made a separate and specific application, be individually admitted to the status of a Roumanian subject, without, as had originally been proposed, being compelled to wait for a period of ten years before assuming the rights and privileges of citizenship.

As regards protected Israelites, they were to be treated on precisely the same footing as other foreigners, and Article 7 of the Constitution was to disappear.

M. Liteano went on to say that when he left Bucharest the Government thought there might just be a possibility of their being able to obtain a majority in favour of some such proposals as those he had mentioned; but since his return to Berlin they had written to tell him that it was now very doubtful whether, in the present state of public feeling, even these modified concessions could be accepted.

When I saw the Minister for Foreign Affairs a few days ago his Excellency, in the course of conversation, alluded to the Roumanian complication, and spoke of the representation which Count Andrassy had made at Bucharest. In the event of the Chancellor's efforts being unsuccessful, each of the interested Powers, he imagined, would then, doubtless, appeal in identic terms to the Roumanian Government through their Consuls-General; and should this appeal fail to produce the desired effect, the Powers would consult together as to their future policy; but, in case of failure, he felt no doubt, looking to Count Andrassy's great loyalty, that his Excellency would not hesitate to abide by his promise to withdraw the Austrian Diplomatic Agent from Bucharest, although he might not, on that account, necessarily consider himself bound to be a party to the particular course which, as regards future action, the other Powers might deem it imperative on them to pursue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 325.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 358. Confidential.)
Berlin, July 17, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to state that the Roumanian Minister of Finance, whom your Lordship had been confidentially informed was to leave Bucharest for Berlin on the 15th instant, has arrived here.

The accredited Roumanian Agent at Berlin, M. Titeano, is, with the assistance of another Commissioner from Bucharest, negotiating for the purchase of the railroads in Roumania, which were constructed with German money and are now in the hands of a German Company.

Roumania has offered to buy up the shares for a sum of 100,000,000 fr., and this offer, M. Titeano tells me privately, has been accepted by the Company.

A difficulty, however, has occurred in consequence of the Company wishing to retain the direction of affairs here in Berlin for some time to come. This pretension the Roumanian Government refuse to admit, and with the view of preventing the necessity of constant reference to Bucharest, M. Titeano thought it advisable that the Minister of Finance should be on the spot, and he therefore telegraphed to him in this sense.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 326.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 359. Most Confidential.)
Berlin, July 18, 1879.

My Lord,

ON my asking Herr von Radowitz this morning when I was at the Foreign Office, whether he had received any information from Vienna as to the result of the steps that may have been taken unofficially at Bucharest by Count Andrassy with a view to the settlement of the Roumanian difficulty, his Excellency said that he knew absolutely nothing on the subject. The matter, however, was urgent, as upon the nature of the reply which might be given by the Roumanian Government would depend the future action of the Powers interested in this question. Should the reply be unfavourable to the views of the Powers, it would then be necessary to ascertain whether Count Andrassy was willing to go a step further, and be the official interpreter of those views through the Austrian representative at Bucharest, or whether the interested Powers should address themselves directly and collectively to the Roumanian Government. That as regards Germany, the Government were determined not to allow the XLIVth Article of the Berlin Treaty to remain a dead letter. They did not see why this should be the only part of the Treaty to which effect was not to be given, more especially as Germany was particularly interested in its execution. They would not positively insist upon the introduction, word by word, into the Roumanian Constitution, of the Article as it now stands in the Berlin Treaty, but they would insist upon the principle laid down in that Article being formally acknowledged by the Roumanian Government; and that once done, the German Government would be found anything but exacting on the point of details. They were quite ready to acknowledge that the immediate emancipation of the whole Jewish community could not be effected by the stroke of a pen, and would not therefore demand what was impossible; but as regards the principle involved in the proposals of the Berlin Congress, this must certainly be maintained. Upon this point the Government would, to use Herr von Radowitz' own expression, be just as "intraitable," as they would be the reverse with respect to the detailed execution of the proposals when once the question of principle had been acknowledged.

I was so much struck by what Herr von Radowitz had said to me on a former occasion, as reported in my despatch No. 356 of the 16th instant, with respect to the intention of Austria to withdraw her Diplomatic Representative at Bucharest in case her efforts to obtain there what the Western Powers required, that I asked his Excellency whether it was really a fact that Count Andrassy had made a promise to this effect, and he answered that such a promise had been given.

I thought it not impossible that I might have misunderstood Herr von Radowitz when he lately alluded to this promise, and I was desirous of ascertaining whether this was so or not, as, from some of Sir Henry Elliot's recent despatches, it appeared to me that, while consenting to recommend at Bucharest the adoption of measures calculated to satisfy the Western Powers, Count Andrassy seemed anxious to avoid the possibility of having to co-operate more energetically, in case the Roumanian Government declined to accept the advice he had undertaken to offer.

On leaving the Foreign Office I met the French Ambassador, and, on my inquiring whether he knew anything about the promise supposed to have been made by Count Andrassy, his Excellency said that he believed there could be no doubt on the subject, although it was certain that it had been given to the German Government alone.

The Comte de St. Vallier confirmed what Herr von Radowitz had told me about Count Andrassy's silence as to the result of his unofficial representation to the Roumanian Government.

When I was with Herr von Radowitz, the card of the Roumanian Minister of Finance, whose arrival here I have reported, was brought to him. In alluding to this gentleman, his Excellency remarked that he had requested him to come to the Foreign Office to-day in order clearly to indicate to him the views of the German Government in regard to the existing difficulty, and to point out to him that it would be quite useless to expect Germany to recognize the independence of Roumania until the latter had frankly admitted the principles of religious liberty as set forth in the language of the Berlin Treaty, but that as soon as this had been done, Germany would be neither exacting nor ungenerous in her appreciation of the difficulties with which the Roumanian Government would doubtless have to contend before the principle could be properly worked out in detail.

Herr von Radowitz added that, in previous conversations with the Roumanian Minister, he had found him well disposed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 327.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 360.) *Berlin, July 19, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE no reason to suppose that there is any foundation for the report which, as stated in your despatch No. 354 of the 14th instant, has reached your Lordship of other demands unconnected with the question of religious liberty having been put forward by the German Government as a condition on which their recognition of Roumania would depend.

There is not a doubt that Germany would gladly see the question relating to the Roumanian railways satisfactorily settled, because so much German capital has been embarked in their construction; but I cannot help feeling convinced that the Government will not in any way allow the matter to influence their decision with regard to the recognition of the Principality.

Were the Roumanian Government willing to acknowledge the principle of religious liberty referred to in the XLIVth Article of the Berlin Treaty, I think it would be seen that Germany would be ready to act at once, without reference to a settlement of the business connected with the railways.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 328.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 110. Political.) *Sophia, June 16, 1879.*

My Lord,

YESTEDAY I had the honour to send a telegram to your Lordship to the following effect:—

"After noticing the cypher of which, in answer to a despatch written in the same cypher, I made use on this occasion, and after remarking that the telegram in question had been so much disfigured in transmission as to be almost indecypherable, I proceeded to state that the villages, those namely in the Tru and Bresnik districts, lately reoccupied, under direction of the Russian Provisional Government, by Bulgarian troops and officials, had been long before clearly assigned to Bulgaria by the Treaty of Berlin, and recognized for such by the late Frontier Commission. They had, however, in defiance of the Treaty been unlawfully usurped by the Servians for some months back, not, it would seem, without the connivance of the Russian authorities. Hence it would appear that the Servian demand for further delay in giving them up was a mere stratagem for gaining time and new intrigues."

I have now the honour to add that the Servian authorities, when making their forced departure, carried off with them all the registers belonging to the said villages, as also all the money deposited in the Municipal Chests, amongst which was that collected, at the rate of 1 lira per family, under the title of contributions for schools, which, however, had never been opened.

The special reason for the requested delay was to give the said Servian authorities time for collecting and realizing the harvest of the village lands now near its season.

The stories current as to the reluctance of the villagers themselves to be annexed to Bulgaria are met by the Bulgarians with narratives of the ecstatic joy of the same villagers on finding themselves freed from the Servian yoke. Both accounts are probably equally authentic, and, to any one acquainted with the peasant character of these regions, equally worthless.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 329.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 112. Political.)

My Lord, *Sophia, June 26, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of a despatch marked No. 382, from Sir A. H. Layard, together with a petition, in which certain Mahommedan refugees from Sophia complain of the difficulties put in the way of their disposing of their property in Bulgaria.

The subject treated of in this latter document being one which has often attracted my attention, and which I have carefully, so far as my opportunities have extended, investigated, I have the honour to report on it as follows:—

The general phrase with which the petition opens about the sufferings of the Mahommedan population in Bulgaria is, taken as it stands, erroneous and misleading. With a few local and insignificant exceptions, promptly redressed or punished, the Mahommedan subjects of the Principality are, and have been for at least eight months past, on exactly the same footing, as in legal and constitutional theory, so in public or individual practice, with the Christian subjects of the same; the only difference being their having been exempted thus far, by what I venture to think a mistaken indulgence, from the else universal military conscription, without, however, having to furnish any compensation for this favour, pecuniary or other. Neither on the part of the civil or legal authorities, or of the police, or, with rare exceptions, as above stated, of individuals, has any Mahommedan throughout the Principality any suffering to complain of, unless such as his own misconduct may have brought on himself.

To come now to the special complaint set forth in the petition regarding the disposal of property. Here we have two distinct classes of proprietors to consider, those who have remained throughout in the Principality, and those who have emigrated from it.

Regarding the first class, no obstacle whatever is placed in the way of their disposing legally of their property, personal or real. Title-deeds are, of course, required, and these, where defective, have to be supplemented by local witnesses, the latter being indifferently Christian, Jewish, Mahommedan, or Gipsy; not, as the petition erroneously asserts, taken exclusively from the first two classes. Where, also, a reasonable doubt exists as to any pre-existent claims, mortgages, or dues, a corresponding guarantee or security has to be supplied, a measure easily taken, perhaps too easily at times.

In proof of the above I adduce the public and notorious fact that about two-thirds of the property belonging to the Mahommedan citizens of Sophia has already been sold, often, to my knowledge, very advantageously, by the owners, who have received the prices agreed on in full. The same holds good regarding the sale by residents of gardens, fields, farms, and the like.

Regarding the second class, that, namely, of emigrants—erroneously termed refugees, since they left the country under no compulsion except that exercised on them at the time by their own Administration, which must, in consequence, be held primarily responsible for the inconveniences which have followed this measure—the correct statement is as now given.

Houses deserted by their Mahommedan owners have been assigned to such occupants as most required them, by whom they are to be again ceded to the original proprietors, on the making good of their claim by the latter in legal and satisfactory form, precisely the same as that required in all similar transactions, and of payment of sums authentically proved to have been expended on the maintenance, reparation, or improvement of the said buildings.

The same holds good with regard to fields, farms, and the like, which are similarly to be reclaimed from those to whose use they have been let, not at the expiration, as the petition again erroneously states, of three years, but of any one year after harvest-time. But in these instances one-half of the proceeds of the field or farm has to be made over by the temporary occupant to the Municipality, by which, after deduction of expenses for necessary improvements and the like, it is assigned to the original or Mahommedan proprietor, on his making good his claim, as before said.

Where the house or ground has been taken possession of by the Municipality itself for public utility, a properly estimated compensation is paid to the proprietor, under the ordinary conditions.

It is natural, and to be expected, that the owners should frequently consider the

prices or rents assigned as too low; that the sales have been disadvantageous; that the exactness of their own claims or title-deeds is too scrupulously examined; that the public or general convenience has been unduly preferred to their own, and it is possible, even probable, that amid so many, and often so complicated transactions of the kind, instances in which the absentee really undergoes some measure of the defraudation and wrong to which absenteeism is notoriously liable, may occur. But to found on details of this nature, a general complaint; to represent what is accidental and abnormal as intentional and systematic; to accuse an administration of malevolence because it employs the indispensable and legal precautions that circumstances imperatively demand, is to present, not a petition, but a calumny.

The existing Administration in Bulgaria places, I distinctly and positively affirm, no other difficulties than what justice, legality and common sense require in the way of Mahommedan or other emigrants as to the disposal of their property in the Principality; nor would it be its interest to do so. It merely applies the law common alike to all, whatever their creed, for the proper protection and security of property, and the authenticity of titles; doubly necessary where circumstances have opened so wide a door to falsification, suppression, illegal transfer, forgery, and the like.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 330.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 113. Political.) *Sophia, June 21, 1879.*
My Lord,

IN view of further elucidating the actual position of affairs in Bulgaria, I have the honour of forwarding herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch, as marked in the margin, together with its answer, on the subject of Panslavist and revolutionary agents in Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 330.

Sir A. H. Layard to Consul-General Palgrave.

Therapia, June 12, 1879.
Sir,

INFORMATION has reached me from a trustworthy source that Panslavist and revolutionary agents are engaged at Sophia, Widdin, and some other places in Bulgaria, in making preparations for an approaching invasion of Macedonia, with a view of inciting an insurrection against the Turkish Government.

I think it right to call your attention to this matter, and should be glad to learn the result of any inquiries you may make with regard to it.

I am, &c
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 330.

Consul-General Palgrave to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sophia, June 20, 1879.
Sir,

IN reply to your Excellency's despatch of the 12th instant, regarding Panslavist and revolutionary agents reported to be engaged at Sophia and elsewhere in Bulgaria in making preparations for an approaching invasion of Macedonia, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that these rumours are, happily, absolutely without foundation.

No intention or even idea of so utterly impossible and absurd a project as the invasion of Macedonia, or indeed of any neighbouring province, exists here, though it is true that a certain degree of apprehension is felt regarding the possibility of an

invasion of the Principality by the Turkish troops and irregulars, who have, indeed, already effected some little plundering forays from across the frontier of Macedonia.

Such precautions as common sense suggests have, however, been taken to protect the border, and it is hoped that aggression, if attempted, may be promptly repelled. From the Bulgarian side none will or can take place.

Panslavist agitators, did any such exist here, would be as ineffective as in Belgium or Holland. The inhabitants of the Principality have no sympathy or care for any race whatever outside, being fully and sufficiently occupied with their own affairs, their internal organization, and their local interests. Revolutionary agents, were they to attempt anything, would be strangely out of place among a people the chief desire and expectancy of which at the present moment is the arrival and installation of its legitimate Prince.

It is accordingly with pleasure that I can assure your Excellency that the alarming reports which have reached Constantinople are mere inventions, and that no anxiety whatever need be felt on their account.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 331.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 114. Political.)
My Lord, *Sophia, June 21, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report, that General Zolotoreff, Director of the Military Department under the Russian Provisional Administration in this Principality, having obtained permission to resign his post, has been replaced by General Parenzoff, a Russian officer said to be of some experience, and who, it is expected, will be confirmed by His Highness Prince Alexander in the office he has just been appointed to for some months at least.

M. Buch, Finance Director, and General Grösser, Director of the Interior, both Russian officials, await here at their respective posts the arrival of the new Prince, by whom, it is thought, their services will also be retained; but only for a short time, till their Bulgarian successors, already designated, have acquired sufficient experience to take over their duties.

The Militia or War Department alone excepted, in which a more prolonged delay appears unavoidable, every other post of administrative importance throughout the Principality either already is, or shortly will be, in native possession. Some amount of fluctuation and uncertainty in appointments and similar matters will, it is probable, continue till after the meeting of the first ordinary constituent Assembly in October.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 332.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 116. Political.)
My Lord, *Sophia, June 23, 1879.*

YESTERDAY I had the honour to telegraph to your Lordship in the following sense:—

"The Imperial Russian Commissary left Sophia to-day on his way to the northern districts of the Principality. He will visit Shumla, Osman Bazar, Pravadi, and the neighbouring Deli-Osman region, and will meet the Prince Elect at Varna on the 5th July (*n.s.*), after which the two will proceed together to Tirnovo."

I have now the honour to add that, after a short Divine Service of good augury for his journey, the Imperial Commissary was presented by the Mayor and Corporation of Sophia with the Freedom of the City in a handsome case of filigree silver, and with a beautifully written Hebrew address of thanks by the Chief Rabbi and Elders of the Synagogue. Short speeches of thanks were made by myself, in the name of my colleagues, for his Excellency's part in carrying out the Treaty of Berlin, so far as this Principality was concerned, by the Bishop, and by the district Governor; to all

of which the Commissary made concise and correct answer, with handsome mention of the British Government. He then declared his official relations with the town and district of Sophia at an end.

Followed many noisy and excited demonstrations of the great personal popularity which the Imperial Commissary has acquired here; the crowd took the horses out of his carriage and dragged it for a good way, and it was not without some difficulty that he at last got free and on his route northward.

I should add that the undoubted affection and esteem won by the Imperial Commissary during his administration, and which is strongest where he has most resided, goes no further than to his individual person; the Russian Administration and officials in general being far from popular, and the prevailing feeling at their departure among the Bulgarians being one of relief, though tempered with some not unreasonable anxiety regarding the future.

I have also to remark that no Mahommedan, official or private, was present on this occasion, though a large number are living and carrying on business in the town.

The Imperial Commissary's projected visit to Shumla and its neighbourhood has, I understand, a precautionary character in view of the insurgent disposition said to have been manifested by the Mahommedan population thereabouts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 333.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 565.) *Therapia, July 20, 1879.*
(Telegraphic.)

I LEARN that Major Gordon has been obliged to return to Philippopolis owing to illness, but I understand that work of Commission will not be interrupted thereby.

No. 334.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 566.) *Therapia, July 20, 1879.*
(Telegraphic.)

MAJOR TROTTER telegraphed on 15th that riot had occurred between Persians and Armenians in Erzeroum. Military were called out, and Governor succeeded in restoring order. Several persons were killed and wounded, and there was much excitement.

He now informs me that excitement has subsided, though streets are still patrolled.

No. 335.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 21, 11 A.M.)

(No. 26.) *Belgrade, July 21, 1879.*
(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING telegram from Her Majesty's Commissioner, dated yesterday:—

"Turkish Commissioner has communicated that the Servians occupied a band of Ottoman territory about nine miles beyond old Servian frontier, extending from Kipsornie westward to Rachea on the Ibar River. This occupation has possibly existed since the war. Turkish authorities have not hitherto taken necessary steps to secure withdrawal, thinking Commission would work there. Being on the old frontier Commission have not thought themselves empowered to do so."

I shall demand of the Servian Government immediate evacuation of territory in question.

(Telegram repeated to Constantinople.)

No. 336.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 569.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 21, 1879.*

FOLLOWING received from Consul-General Michell, dated yesterday:—

"Major Gordon is here almost well, only requires rest."

No. 337.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke.

(No. 6.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 21, 1879, 5·35 P.M.*

WE are now negotiating at St. Petersburgh with reference to your question. I will let you know as soon as I hear anything definite.

Your proceedings are approved.

No. 338.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Michell.

(No. 47.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 21, 1879, 7 P.M.*

YOURS 26th.

I do not sufficiently understand the object of the various parties to offer instruction, and must wait for your despatch in explanation.

No. 339.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 393.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, July 21, 1879.*

THE Russian Chargé d'Affaires asked me to-day for a verbal answer to the Circular communicated by him on the 14th instant upon the subject of the Bulgarian frontier near Silistria. I replied that, in my belief, there was no prospect of arriving at a settlement of the dispute unless the principle of the majority were accepted. It had been adopted in the delimitation of the Balkans, and the result had been a speedy and complete success. It had been unfortunately rejected by the Turks in the delimitation of Montenegro, and, up to this moment, no substantial progress had been made by that Commission.

Judging from these two instances, and from the general circumstances of the case, I felt convinced that every device which fell short of accepting the principle of the majority would fail to settle the dispute at Arab Tabia, and would simply result in a loss of time. With respect to the more specific suggestions of his Circular, I said that I was wholly unable to accept the proposal of the Russian Government that the suburbs of Silistria must necessarily be placed within the territory of Bulgaria. The first consideration was the necessity of finding a convenient site for the construction of a bridge, and if, as the Commission had asserted, the point close to Silistria was the only point that would satisfy the engineering requirements of the case, I did not think any importance was to be attached to the fact that it would involve the destruction of a certain number of outlying buildings.

I said that if other Powers consented, I saw no objection to a re-examination of the spot by the existing Commissioners; but Colonel Home's Report was so precise that I could hold out no hope to him that General Hamley was likely to come to a different conclusion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

P.S.—A copy of the Memorandum above alluded to is inclosed herewith for your Excellency's information.

S.

No. 340.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Michell.

(No. 20.) *Foreign Office, July 21, 1879.*

Sir,

AS I do not sufficiently understand the object which the various parties have in view with regard to the resolutions discussed at the sitting of the Commission on the 16th instant, as reported in your telegram of the same day, I shall abstain from giving you any instructions thereon until I have before me your despatch reporting more fully the arguments of the Commissioners.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 341.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke.

(No. 51.) *Foreign Office, July 21, 1879.*

Sir,

YOU will have learnt from my telegram No. 6 of this day's date, that the question which has arisen in the Commission for the delimitation of the Asiatic frontier is forming the subject of negotiations between Her Majesty's Government and the Russian Government, the result of which will be communicated to you as soon as Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh reports that any definite conclusion has been arrived at.

In the meanwhile I have to state to you that your proceedings meet with the approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 341[a].

Lord Tenterden to Sir A. Kemball.

Foreign Office, July 21, 1879.

Sir,

A DESPATCH, of which a copy is inclosed herewith, has been received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, from which it appears that the Porte is anxious to obtain, for the use of the Commission charged under Article LX of the Treaty of Berlin to determine the extent of territory which is to be ceded to Persia with Khotour, copies of the maps and of a Report said to have been drawn up by the Anglo-Russian Commission of which you were a member.

Colonel Clarke, having reported that he is unable to discover any project of frontier or Report by the Mixed Commission among the papers to which he has access, Lord Salisbury has directed that Sir H. Layard's despatch, with its inclosures, shall, in accordance with his Excellency's suggestion, be referred to you, and I am to request that you will favour his Lordship with any observations you may have to offer with regard to the documents referred to by the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 342.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 28. Political.) *Salonica, June 30, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship copy of my despatch of this date to Sir Henry Layard respecting the conduct of the Ottoman authorities of the Vilayet of Cossova towards Mr. Klundt, a Bible colporteur in the service of the agent of the British and Foreign Bible Society at Constantinople

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 342.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, June 30, 1879.*

THE Reverend P. Crosbie, a Protestant missionary at this place, having communicated to me, on the 21st instant, a telegram which he received the same day from Mr. Klundt, a Bible colporteur in the service of Mr. Thomson, the agent of the British and Foreign Bible Society at Constantinople, stating that the Society's books in his possession have been "sequestered and sealed up by the Ottoman authorities at Pristina, and that he was detained in arrest at that place and expected to be eventually expelled from there," I at once, with a view to provide against his ill-treatment, addressed by the telegraph a representation on the subject to the Governor-General of Cossova; and I have since received an answer from his Excellency to the effect that "Mr. Klundt was not in arrest, and that the books, which were taken from him by the authorities for the purpose of ascertaining if they had passed the censorship of the Ottoman Government, have been returned to him."

In 1876, as I reported in my despatch to Lord Derby No. 36 of the 22nd June, copy of which I forwarded to Sir Henry Elliot in my despatch No. 57 of the 23rd June of the same year, Mr. Klundt was expelled from Uscup by the Ottoman authorities, but was subsequently permitted by them, in consequence of the representations of this Consulate, to return and resume his colportage in that district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 343.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 29. Political.)

My Lord, *Salonica, June 30, 1879.*

I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of my despatch of this date to Sir Henry Layard respecting the conciliatory conduct of Refiat Pasha, the Governor-General of Salonica, in the case of a young Jewess who absconded from her home with the intention of embracing the Mahommedan faith.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 343.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, June 30, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that a young Jewess, about fifteen years of age, and the daughter of poor parents, absconded last week from her home and took refuge in the house of a Mahommedan at this place, and that, upon being claimed by her parents, she not only refused to return home, but declared her resolve to embrace the Mahommedan faith. The parents then came to this Consulate-General for assistance, which I promised to afford in case the action of the Ottoman authorities, to whom they should have applied in the first instance, rendered my intervention necessary; and I advised them to go at once to the Grand Rabbi, the spiritual chief of their community, and request him to take the necessary steps on their behalf. This they did, and, upon the Grand Rabbi's representation to the Governor-General, his Excellency had the girl removed to his official residence, where she was subsequently admitted to an interview with her parents in the presence of the Rabbi's delegate, the Jewish member of the local Grand Council, and the Chief of Police. After this interview, which lasted upwards of two hours, the above-mentioned officials returned to the Council, and reported that the girl appeared firm in her resolve to embrace Mahommedanism.

The Governor-General then summoned and examined the girl before the Council, and, upon her affirming that she fled from home because she had been severely beaten by her father, his Excellency told her that that was not sufficient reason for disowning

her parents and her religion; and that, under the circumstances, he felt bound to order her to return to her home, and issued an order accordingly. He at the same time strongly recommended the father to treat his daughter kindly, and avoid similar trouble in the future; and, upon his promising to protect her against further ill-treatment from her father, she left the Council, and subsequently returned home.

The conciliatory and liberal action of Refhat Pasha in this case is all the more commendable as it was unattended by any Consular pressure or intervention, and I have informed him that I would not fail to bring it under the notice of your Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 344.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 30. Political.) *Salonica, June 30, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a despatch, with copies of its two inclosures, which I have this day addressed to Sir Henry Layard, relative to Messrs. Robert Abbott and Sons' complaints of the irregularities perpetrated at one of their farms by the Kirserdars who are employed in the police of the district of Caraferia; and to an act of brigandage which has been recently committed in the vicinity of Niousta, involving Mr. Salomon B. Juda, a British subject, in the loss of £ T. 64.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 344.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Salonica, June 30, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Excellency copy of a letter from Messrs. Robert Abbott and Sons, British merchants in this place, complaining of the arbitrary proceedings of the Kirserdars who are employed in the rural police of the district of Caraferia; also copy of a letter from another British subject, Mr. Salomon B. Juda, relative to an act of brigandage which has been recently perpetrated to his prejudice, in the vicinity of Niausta, a town not far from Vodina and Caraferia, in this province.

Upon my representing both cases to the Governor-General of Salonica, his Excellency with regard to the first furnished Messrs. Abbott with a written order under flying seal, strictly enjoining the Kaimakam of Caraferia to prevent the renewal of the irregularities complained of and to protect Messrs. Abbott's property, warning him, at the same time, that he will be held responsible for the conduct of the Kirserdars in his district.

With regard to the robbery case, his Excellency has promised to take steps against the authors of it with a view to their apprehension and the recovery of the stolen property. Proceedings will also be taken against the persons suspected by Mr. Juda of being implicated in the robbery.

I very much fear that Mr. Juda's money will not be recovered, for when brigands or their confederates are captured and convicted, their plunder is never disgorged, at least, I have known very few instances to the contrary. There is, however, one way in which some redress may be obtained in his case; the authorities should sell the real property of the persons named in his letter, should their complicity be proved, and with its proceeds make good the loss he has suffered by their robbery; and I hope that your Excellency will move the Porte to issue an instruction in the above sense to the Vali of Salonica.

It would even be desirable to apply this measure to all acts of brigandage in general, as likely to have a deterring effect on the lawless characters, who, in nine cases out of ten, belong to the peasant class, and have small holdings in the rural districts,

and who may more or less be dissuaded from their evil course when they learn that their property will be forfeited.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 344.

Messrs. R. Abbott and Sons to Consul-General Blunt.

M. le Consul-Général, *Salonique, le 23 Juin, 1879.*

ON vient nous avertir de notre Tchiflik de Capsohori que les Kiserdars et les irréguliers continuent d'aller chaque jour dans le dit tchiflik, faisant des konaks; se faisant nourrir et ne payant rien, de sorte que nos villageois ne pouvant plus supporter ces dépenses sont prêts à quitter notre propriété en masse, ce qui la ruinera complétement.

Nous nous plaisons à reconnaître la bonne conduite des troupes régulières, qui payent régulièrement tout ce qu'ils consument.

Comme les Kirserdars et les irréguliers sont sous les ordres de son Excellence Refhat Pacha, nous venons vous prier, M. le Consul-Général, de vouloir bien faire les représentations nécessaires à son Excellence, qui, nous sommes sûrs, donnera les ordres nécessaires, afin que cet état de choses, qui porte un grand préjudice à nos intérêts, cesse le plutôt possible.

Nous avons, &c.
(Signé) R. ABBOTT AND SONS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 344.

Mr. Juda to Consul-General Blunt.

M. le Consul-Général, *Salonique, le 20 Juin, 1879.*

LE Soussigné, Salomon B. Juda, sujet Anglais, agent actionnaire de la fabrique filature de coton de Niausta, a l'honneur de vous exposer—

Qu'en date du 19 courant il a expédié par l'entremise des Kiradjis à la susdite fabrique £ T. 64 en monnaie de cuivre.

Les susdits Kiradjis aussitôt arrivés près du village Arsenj, situé deux heures et demie de distance de Niausta, ont été attaqués par une quantité de brigands, qui leur ont enlevé toutes les sommes qu'ils portaient, et de conséquence les £ T. 64 que le Soussigné leur avait consigné.

Selon les informations que le Soussigné a pris, le susdit vol a été commis, avec l'aide de quelques habitants des Tchiliks de Vestitza, Arsenj, Menospito, et Episcopi, dépendants de Vodina et de Yenidjé Vardar.

Le Soussigné a lieu de soupçonner que les voleurs sont Bekir et son frère, fils d'Abdul Bey, Hussein Dardjan, fils de Moralit Bey, de Karadjova, et Muslif Agha, de Niausta.

Or, le Soussigné vous prie, M. le Consul-Général, de vouloir bien intervenir auprès des autorités locales, et faire prendre les mesures nécessaires pour que les malfaiteurs soient punis avec les peines dictées par les lois, et de conséquence me faire rembourser l'argent volé.

Le Soussigné réclame l'intervention énergique de ce Consulat-Général, car si ce fait reste impuni le Soussigné n'est plus sûr de remettre aucune somme à la fabrique, ce qui lui apporterait des graves dommages; et à cet effet vous êtes prié de vouloir bien transmettre copie de la présente à l'autorité locale.

(Signé) SALOMON B. JUDA.

No. 345.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 31. Political.)

Salonica, July 2, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship copy of a Report which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople upon the result of my representations to the civil and military authorities of Macedonia regarding the urgency of dispensing with the services of the irregulars who are employed in the police of this province, and giving a short account of the British interests involved in the districts of Caraferia and Catterina.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 345.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Salonica, July 2, 1879.

Sir,

SINCE my return to Salonica I have taken every opportunity of strongly pressing upon the Governor-General, Rifaat Pasha, the urgency of dispensing with the services of the "Kirserdars" and other irregulars who are employed in the police of Macedonia, and to whose misconduct I have adverted in some of my previous Reports to your Excellency.

Rifaat Pasha admitted to me that the evil of brigandage has assumed serious proportions of late in the districts of Caraferia and Catterina, but denied that the rural police, as organized by him, were at all responsible for a state of affairs which he attributed *in toto* to the negligence and want of energy of Abdullah Pasha, the General in command of the military in those districts; and I regret to say that his Excellency has succeeded in inducing the Seraskier, Osman Pasha, to effect a change in that command by transferring Abdullah Pasha to the district of Kozana and appointing in his room Nejib Pasha.

The arguments used by me having failed to open the eyes of Rifaat Pasha to the necessity of adopting the course I recommended, I next addressed myself to Safvet Pasha, the new Commander-in-chief of the troops in Macedonia; and I am bound to say that his Excellency took in good part my earnest representations, and promised to give to the subject his best attention. Subsequently he commissioned Colonel Reschid Bey, in command of the cavalry, to inquire into and report upon the alleged misconduct of the rural police. This duty has been carried out most carefully and conscientiously by Reschid Bey, and the Report which he has sent in has satisfied Safvet Pasha of the inutility—the danger, in fact—of further employing the services of these Kirserdars and irregulars; and I have the satisfaction to report that his Excellency has, in consequence, addressed a communication to the Governor-General urging the immediate abolition of the force in question, and has also drawn up and forwarded to the Seraskier a Report on the subject, in which he recommends that a special corps should be at once organized on a military footing for police service in Macedonia.

He proposes that this corps should be formed into a battalion, with a complement of 675 men, including officers; the latter to be selected from the army, and the men recruited from the districts in which they will have to serve, those who have seen military service to have the preference.

The officers will receive their military pay and rations, while the men will be paid at the rate of 80 piastres each per month, with an allowance of 1½ piastres per day in lieu of rations. They will have a special uniform and badges, and, once enrolled, will serve three years and be subject to military law and discipline. This organization, if carried out, will prove a great improvement; and its success would be ensured by placing it under the control and superintendence of Colonel Synge; but I have thought it prudent not to urge this suggestion on Safvet Pasha.

As British subjects have very considerable interests in the districts of Catterina and Caraferia, I have constantly tried to impress upon the provincial authorities the obligation I am under of watching that they are properly and efficiently protected. It is therefore some relief to see that Safvet Pasha is willing to take some action in

that direction, and I hope that, with your Excellency's support, his proposal will be approved and sanctioned by the Ottoman Government.

The following is a short description of the British interests involved in the two districts of Caraferia and Catterina:—

No less than seven farms are owned by British subjects, viz.: Capsohori, Gridjal, and Rezna, by R. Abbott and Sons; Neohori, by J. Rogotti; Tricovista, by Colonel Synge; Ayian and Kitros, by Mr. J. Bizzo.

Messrs. Charles Hanson and Co., of Constantinople, have important chrome mines in five villages, viz.: Cocova, Bostani, Spourlita, Skoterni, and Palatiza.

Several British merchants established at Salonica are also largely engaged in preparing sleepers for the Smyrna-Aidin, Cassaba, Salonica, and other railways in Turkey.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 346.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 32. Political.)

Salonica, July 4, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship copy of my despatch of this date to Sir Henry Layard, with copy of its inclosure, relative to the state of affairs in Thessaly.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 346.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Salonica, July 4, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith inclosed, for the information of your Excellency, copy of a Report which I have received from Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Longworth at Larissa, respecting the state of affairs in Thessaly.

Mr. Longworth states that brigandage is decreasing in that province, and furnishes, among other items of information, an account of the Turkish force there.

He estimates this force at 28,400; composed of 37 battalions of infantry, 6 regiments of cavalry, and 6 batteries of artillery.

The information I have received from other sources confirms the above estimate of infantry and artillery, but not that of the cavalry, which, according to my data, is not more than 1,800 effective men and 1,500 horses.

The Turkish army is very deficient in cavalry, and I very much doubt if the aggregate strength of this arm in the three Provinces of Macedonia, Thessaly, and Epirus exceeds 2,000 sabres.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 346.

Acting Vice-Consul Longworth to Consul-General Blunt.

Larissa, July 1, 1879.

Sir,

I BEG leave to furnish you with a general Report upon the condition of Thessaly for the quarter ending the 30th June, 1879.

The time and attention of the Turkish authorities had been almost exclusively occupied during this period by the proceedings of the brigands.

On my taking charge of this Vice-Consulate, I called privately on the civil and military functionaries of Larissa, and, among other matters, spoke seriously, though

unofficially, on the alarming state of brigandage that was then prevailing in the province.

I reminded them that, with the advance of summer and the ripening of the crops, the evil would greatly increase, unless measures were promptly taken towards its repression; that brigands would descend from the mountain localities and hide in the long herbage of the plains, demanding and exacting large ransoms from landed proprietors by threatening to fire the crops; that travelling even on the high road would become much more dangerous; and that the operation of reaping this year's harvest would greatly, if not entirely, be obstructed, thus bringing in its train abject poverty and a general stagnation of business.

I expressed, at the same time, an opinion that such a contingency may be averted if they were disposed and determined to do so. On being asked by what means this may be effected, I reminded them that they had more than 20,000 troops under their command in the province, only a small portion of which had been until then engaged in pursuit of brigands, whilst the rest were wasting time in remaining simply idle at some of the principal towns and villages.

If, I suggested, the greater part of this force were tented out by half-companies within short distances of each other, especially in the Phersala, Tricalla, and Karditza districts; and if fresh and stringent orders were issued to each of the officers in command to keep vigilant watch, to pursue and attack brigands by night as well as by day, the condition of the province, I ventured to add, was certain to ameliorate rather than deteriorate.

I further remarked that, as fine weather had set in, such a measure might be carried out with very little inconvenience, and that it appeared to me highly advisable, both from a medical and political point of view, for thus mountain air and exercise would improve the physical condition of the troops, and the inhabitants would no longer complain of soldiers being billeted in their houses.

I have now the honour to state that these suggestions had been taken into consideration and eventually adopted to a great extent, and that the results of the plan have proved it to be by no means ineffective, aided as it has been towards success by the withdrawal for the summer months of the Greek, Ghega, and Wallach tribes of nomadic shepherds, who emigrate and settle for the winter in Thessaly, and who serve to support the brigands by furnishing them with information, food, and shelter.

From a diary kept by me I have deduced the following occurrences, which will amply show the state in which this province had been in during the last three months. It will be remarked that during April no less than fifteen cases have taken place in connection with brigandage, whilst during May the number recorded is four, and during June only two.

April 2.—In the district of Phersala three Turks and a Turkish girl left town in the night for their village mounted on donkeys. The men killed by brigands; the girl returned.

April 2.—In the district of Karditza a Christian woodcutter caught by brigands; not heard of since.

April 3.—In sub-district of Aghia a Christian caught by brigands and rescued by soldiers.

April 3.—In district of Armyro some soldiers rescued a woman and child from brigands.

April 4.—In district of Volo troops encountered a band of brigands; killed one, a native of Macrinitza.

April 5.—In sub-district of Aghia troops captured four brigands.

April 6.—In district of Volo a Christian caught by brigands and rescued by soldiers.

April 8.—In sub-district of Aghia a Christian lad caught by brigands and rescued by soldiers.

April 10.—In district of Phersala a Christian killed by brigands.

April 11.—In district of Ellassona a priest and three tradesmen caught by brigands.

April 13.—In district of Ellassona a band of brigands encountered troops; six brigands killed and eight soldiers.

April 14.—In sub-district of Dereli a band of brigands encountered troops and armed rayahs; three, including the Chief, Christo Davilla, killed; heads brought in triumph to Larissa; officer imprisoned for so doing in violation of strict orders.

April 16.—In sub-district of Aghia two brigands, Alleni Papayani and Dimetri Papayani, surrendered on bail.

April 18.—In district of Ellassona a Christian land-owner, caught by brigands, released on payment of 500*l.*

April 20.—In district of Karditza troops encountered a band of brigands, of which one was killed and three wounded.

April 23.—In district of Volo a Greek merchant caught by five brigands; released on the demanded ransom being paid.

May 19.—In district of Volo a band of brigands caught a Christian, his wife, and two children.

May 23.—In sub-district of Dereli a band of brigands robbed a farm-house of 27*l.*

May 27.—In sub-district of Volo a band of brigands caught some women whilst washing outside their village. Troops encountered the brigands; killed one, wounded another, and rescued the women.

May 30.—In district of Volo a Christian merchant caught by brigands. He eventually saved himself.

June 8.—In sub-district of Aghia five brigands robbed a house of 150*l.*

June 10.—In district of Tricalla an Austrian subject caught and killed by brigands. (See Report No. 8, Larissa, June 18, 1879.)

The troops now stationed in Thessaly consist of a large portion of the force under the Commander-in-chief Abdi Pasha, of the 3rd Corps d'Armée, a General much admired and respected by all for his integrity of character, nobleness of mind, kindness of heart, and advanced age.

I am glad to say that the soldiers have been latterly better cared for, clothed, and fed, and that in their general condition they appear much more like troops belonging to a regular force. They have also been most orderly in conduct, for during my time at Larissa, I have scarcely heard one complaint against them from the inhabitants of the province.

The number and distribution of these troops may be given in the following tabular form:—

District or Sub-District	Batteries of Artillery.		Regiments of Cavalry.	Battalions of Infantry.			Number of	
	Field.	Mountain.		Nizam.	Redif.	Mustaphis.	Infantry.	Cavalry.
Larissa	3	2	2	3	..	1	3,000	1,000
Volo	..	..	..	1	3	..	2,600	..
Armyro	..	..	1	1	3	1	3,200	800
Domoko	..	..	..	..	5	..	3,000	..
Karditza	1	..	1	..	6	1	4,200	800
Tricalla	..	..	1	..	4	1	2,800	800
Ellassona	..	..	..	..	3	..	1,200	..
Tsinova	..	..	1	..	..	1	500	800
Phersala	..	..	..	..	2	..	1,600	..
Aghia	..	..	..	..	1	..	800	..
Dereli	..	..	..	..	1	..	700	..
Total	4	2	6	6	27	5	23,600	4,800

Martial law still exists in Thessaly, but it weighs lightly on the people, as it is being enforced with the utmost leniency and justice. The Military Court is presided over by Colonel Mahmoud Bey, whose impartiality and singleness of purpose have hitherto been most exemplary.

Unhappily the same thing cannot be said of the Civil Court of Justice. Ever since the 16th April last, that is, since the receipt by his Excellency Said Pasha of the Porte's instructions to refrain from interfering in the judicial affairs of his province, in order to accord with the laws of the new Constitution, matters in this Medjlish have gone from bad to worse; for thus the Cadi and his Azas have attained a position free from control, without being competent or worthy of such independence. The consequence is that the Court sits only two or three times a-week for about an hour or two; the meeting is rarely full, and the law is administered in a most negligent manner, causing long vexatious delays, acts of gross injustice, and a perpetual appeal for the mediation of this Vice-Consulate by Mahommedan almost as much as by Christian applicants.

It must be admitted that bribery is not the cardinal vice of this Court, for most of the abuses arise from a rivalry of feeling and importance between two influenti Mussulman members, named Malik Effendi and Dervish Bey.

The power of doing what is right or wrong rests solely with them, a power which is only exercised according to the capricious disposition of the moment. A spirit of animosity and antagonism, moreover, prompts the one to put himself in constant opposition to the other, whilst the Cadi, who is himself a good simple little man, allows things to run on as they best might rather than incur the displeasure of either of these two individuals.

Before dropping this subject, let me venture to recommend most urgently that a reprimand couched in severe terms be addressed to the members of this Court from Constantinople, in order that they may be somewhat roused to a higher sense of duty.

It is evident that all unconcealed attempts at preparing to raise an insurrection in Thessaly have for the present ceased; for during the last month no positive information has reached me of insurgent bands appearing in the province. The sad fate of Pharmaki and his men, reported in my despatch dated Larissa, the 21st May, 1879, has probably served as a check to others, and a warning that such a course is not to be pursued with impunity.

The harvest this year is rich and abundant, and is being quickly gathered in, owing to the unsettled social and political state of the country. Local speculation and commercial enterprise on a large scale are still impeded, as the exportation of grain from Thessaly continues under a strict prohibition. This obstacle, however, it is to be hoped, will soon be raised.

During the beginning of June the heat throughout the plains of the province was most intense. The thermometer ranged from 30 degrees to 33 degrees in the shade, and no less than seventeen out-door labourers lost their lives from sunstroke.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 347.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 47.) *Philippopolis, July 7, 1879.*

My Lord,

THE French Consul, who also represents Italian interests, has made a strong remonstrance to the Governor-General on the subject of the conduct of the local Police-Master (a Pole in the Russian Cossack service) who, after arresting an Italian subject for murder, caused him to be severely flogged as a means of extorting confession.

The Consul demands the trial and punishment of that officer under the Penal Code.

I had some time ago drawn the attention of the Governor-General to the fact that the Police-Master was in the habit of administering the rod, without any form of trial, at the Police-office of the "5th Gourka Ward" of this town, and his Excellency had assured me that he would put an end to such illegal proceedings; but to this day a notice is posted up on the walls of this town to the effect that any person tearing off a fez will be fined 25 roubles, and will, moreover, incur "much unpleasantness at the Police-office of the 5th Gourka Ward."

I greatly regret that the Police-Master should have broken the law so outrageously.

He has been very active in the performance of his duties, and has also inspired a considerable amount of confidence among foreigners by his nationality, and by the political views which he has expressed.

It is, therefore, all the more unfortunate that his experience with the Russian troops on the frontier between Siberia and China should have disqualified him for the post to which he had just been confirmed by Aleko Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 348.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 48.)

My Lord, *Philippopolis, July 7, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 41 of the 5th instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith a translation of the answer given to General Stolipine by the Exarch, in which the latter speaks of the "Bulgarians of Southern Bulgaria."

The Exarch is absent at Hissar, but on his return I shall ask his Beatitude whether the letter is genuine as published in the "Maritza," and if he acknowledges it to be so, I shall draw his attention to the responsibility which he incurs by joining General Stolipine in styling this province "Southern Bulgaria" in his official correspondence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

P.S.—General Poltoratski, who commands the Russian troops in this neighbourhood, likewise spoke of "Southern Bulgaria" on presenting the vestments and chalice, at a parade, to the Exarch, in the name of General Stolipine.

T. M.

Inclosure in No. 348.

Extract from the "Maritza" of $\frac{\text{June 27}}{\text{July 9}}$, 1879.

(Translation.)

LETTER from the Bulgarian Exarch to General Stolipine:—

"Your Excellency,

"I have received with the deepest and most inexpressible gratitude the gift of full Archiepiscopal vestments and of a Holy Chalice, presented through your Excellency by the 9th Army Corps, in eternal commemoration of the holy bonds that have lately cemented the union of two brotherly nations.

"To the immense sacrifices, labours, and privations of all kinds suffered by the 9th Army Corps, under the command of its worthy and noble Chief, in the cause of the liberation of a people of the same race and creed, the gift thus made through me to the whole Bulgarian people is a fresh proof of brotherly love and brotherly sympathy towards those who have been liberated.

"Attachment and gratitude—those noble feelings of the human breast—are so deeply engraven in the hearts of all Bulgarians towards their brethren in the faith, in return for their manifold proofs of benevolence, that it is impossible to express those feelings in words.

"Therefore, as the humble spiritual representative of the godly Bulgarian people, finding it impossible to express my own and the national gratitude towards the Christ-loving and brave members ("personnel") of the 9th Army Corps for this new proof of love for their brethren of the same race and creed, I shall not cease to offer up at the altar, to the Almighty, my warm prayers for the health and welfare of all the members of that valorous, Christ-loving corps; while all godly Bulgarians of Southern Bulgaria, who will receive the Holy Sacrament from the holy chalice, will everlastingly remember the brave warriors who, within a period of two years, have, with Christian abnegation and with exemplary conduct, left among them such durable proofs of their being worthy of everlasting gratitude.

"I beg your Excellency will deign to accept the expression of my deepest respect, and transmit my humble Archiepiscopal blessing to all the members ("personnel") of the 9th Corps under your command."

No. 349.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 50.) *Philippopolis, July 9, 1879.*

My Lord,

I SPOKE to Aleko Pasha yesterday on the subject of the conduct of the Acting Prefect of Philippopolis, who, in the passports which he issues to the natives of this province, for use in foreign countries, describes them as "Bulgarians."

A certain sort of that kind was exhibited to me the day before yesterday.

His Excellency promised to issue the necessary instructions, but as I have no confidence in his ability to prevent the violation of the Organic Statute, I have brought the matter to the knowledge of the Turkish Commissioners with a view to the Governor-General being supplied by the Porte with the form of passport that should be issued to the natives of Eastern Roumelia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 350.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 51.) *Philippopolis, July 9, 1879.*

My Lord,

THE inclosed article in the "Maritza" of yesterday's date represents, in all probability, the line that will be taken by the Commission of Inquiry into the Carlovo affair, the Report of which is to be ready to-night.

The accompanying extract from the "Philippopolis" of this morning refers to the same subject.

I learn from the Police-Master, who was a member of the Commission, that the true motive of the outrage on the Jews at Carlovo was the unwillingness of the Bulgarians to give up to the Jews the houses, &c., belonging to the latter, and of which the former are in actual occupation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 351.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 54.) *Philippopolis, July 11, 1879.*

My Lord,

THE Council voted yesterday a grant of £T. 15,000 to the Repatriation Commission, which intends to make, on Monday next, arrangements for the distribution of that sum among Turkish refugees.

Small sums are to be lent to families on condition of repayment within a term of one to four years.

I propose to devote at once the residue of the Rhodope Refugee Fund (amounting to about 650*l.*) to the establishment of Turkish refugees in some villages at the foot of the Rhodope.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 352.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 55. Confidential.) *Philippopolis, July 11, 1879.*

My Lord,

ALEKO PASHA spoke to me the day before yesterday about the Police-Master, and asked me to assist him in smoothing over the difficulties which had compelled

that officer to offer his resignation. His Excellency complained, in language of despair, that General Vitalis, in whom he had no confidence, had been forced upon him, and that the Italian Commissioner and the French Consul were insisting on the dismissal and punishment of the only man on whom he could rely for the maintenance of peace and order at Philippopolis.

The Governor-General agreed with me, however, that if the prisoner, who had been tortured, had even been a Bulgarian, the consequences to the Police-Master, if found guilty, ought to be exactly the same; but, in reply to my question as to what punishment could be inflicted in the case, without losing permanently the services of Captain Sukolowsky, who was certainly a very active officer, his Excellency said that he would induce his Council to declare that the Police-Master should be excused on the ground that he had unfortunately been allowed to continue to act on the instructions which he had received from the Russian Administration of this province.

Although I appreciated the unconscious humour of this suggestion, I pointed out to Aleko Pasha that his Council would certainly refuse to make such a statement, since, firstly, they could have no official knowledge of those instructions; and, secondly, it would be well-known to them that the Russian Criminal Code did not permit of the application of torture to prisoners.

I, therefore, merely promised to speak to M. Vernoni on the subject.

Since the above conversation, the Police-Master has called upon me, and, while evading a direct answer to my inquiries as to whether the Italian was really flogged by his orders and in his presence, he entered into a long statement of the difficulties by which he is surrounded in the execution of his duties, the conclusion which he endeavoured to impress upon me being, that no order, no peace, and no security to life and property, could be established without a firm central Administration and a Police-Master invested with the power of inspiring with awe the Bulgarian population of this town.

He endeavoured to convince me that his resignation was prompted by other considerations than those which arose out of the incident that had been taken up so warmly by the French Consul. He complained of having to serve too many masters; for the Governor-General and the Bulgarian Members of the Council, he said, were entirely ruled by the National Committee, and were deprived by the latter of all independent authority and action. In such circumstances he could only foresee disorder, and, perhaps, popular disturbance, in the quelling of which he felt no desire to expose his life.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 353.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 56.)

My Lord, *Philippopolis, July 12, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation of two telegrams from Aïdos, published in the "Bulgarian Standard" of Silistra, and dated the 7th, stating that, after the inhabitants of that town had insisted on the newly-appointed Turkish Sub-Prefect wearing a calpak, they had at last, at the instance of General Stolipine, agreed to receive him in the Turkish head-dress.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 353.

Telegrams published by the "Bulgarian Standard," published at Slivno.

(Translation.) *Aïdos, June 20, 1879 (o. s.)*

SELIM EFFENDI, appointed Sous-Préfet for Aïdos, arrived yesterday from Bourgas. The inhabitants on meeting him insisted upon his putting on the Bulgarian calpak in lieu of the Turkish fez, and thus make his entry into the town. Selim Effendi refused to comply with the injunction without the special order of the Mufti,

and the consent of the mountain Hodjas. The inhabitants insisted, using all persuasive means, but he continued to refuse, saying that such an action on his part would be contrary to the Turkish law. Upon a definitive answer being given that he would not be received by the inhabitants if he wore the fez, Selim Effendi returned to Bourgas.

No disorders took place. Everything passed off quietly.

Aidos, June 20, 1879 (o.s.)

The Sous-Préfet, Selim Effendi, came to-day, accompanied by the Préfet. Again the inhabitants did not agree to receive him with the fez.

He went back again.

General Stolipine interfered in the matter, and persuaded the inhabitants to receive him with the fez, which they consented to do.

Nothing disagreeable happened.

No. 354.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 57.) *Philippopolis, July* 12, 1879.

My Lord,

THE inclosed cutting from the "Maritza" of yesterday's date gives an abstract in the French language of a petition which has been addressed by fifty-five officers of the militia to the Governor-General, complaining of the disorder which reigns in the head-quarter staff of the militia, owing principally, it is alleged, to the officers composing that staff being unacquainted with the Bulgarian language.

The Bulgarian text of the petition, as printed in the "Maritza," states that the document bears the signatures of "Fifty-five Bulgarian officers of the militia of Southern Bulgaria."

The petition in question was no doubt one of the means employed in order to induce Aleko Pasha to resist the scheme of reorganisation drawn up by General Dickson and Captain de Torcy, and to force upon General Vitalis a list of officers recommended by the representatives and foreign allies of the so-called "National Committee."

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 354.

Extract from the "Maritza" of $\frac{\text{July}}{\text{June}}$ 11, 1879.

DANS notre partie Bulgare nous publions une pétition signée de cinquante-cinq officiers de la milice et adressé à son Altesse le Prince-Gouverneur. Les pétitionnaires se plaignent du désordre et des malentendus qui règnent dans l'Etat-Major, des fréquents déplacements inutiles; de l'ignorance dans laquelle on laisse les troupes sur la personnalité de leurs chefs les plus immédiats aussi bien que sur les dispositions prises à leur égard, des changements presque quotidiens des nominations des officiers, des retards apportés à la livraison à temps des moyens de subsistence aux troupes, &c.—toutes choses qui doivent, selon les plaignants, avoir un effet désastreux sur la discipline des miliciens et ébranler la confiance aussi bien du public que des officiers dans la direction des forces armées du pays. Les pétitionnaires en signalant les conséquences fâcheuses qu'un pareil état de choses ne peut manquer de produire sur la tranquillité et la sûreté publiques, font un chaleureux appel au patriotisme du Prince-Gouverneur et conjurent son Altesse de mettre un terme à cette désorganisation en prenant les mesures suivantes:—1. Composer l'Etat-Major des militaires compétents et sachant s'expliquer dans la langue du pays. 2. Suivre la règle fondamentale de toute organisation militaire, c'est-à-dire l'uniformité et autant que possible l'égalité de la force des corps de troupes, au lieu d'établir le chaos, comme cela se pratique aujourd'hui, par la formation de droujines de force absolument inégale. 3. Garantir une bonne fois les officiers contre le changement presque quotidien de leur destination

et prendre en considération les années de service et l'expérience des officiers anciens pouvant initier les jeunes officiers encore inexpérimentés aux difficultés du service. Les signataires de la pétition se plaignent encore de ce que le Commandant de la milice, après s'être laissé dresser par une réunion d'officiers une liste des choix à faire, aurait ensuite changé la plupart des noms sans consulter de nouveau la dite réunion d'officiers. Les pétitionnaires en rappelant qu'une sérieuse organisation de la milice n'est nullement contraire au programme tracé par l'Europe, expriment l'espoir qu'il sera fait, dans l'intérêt du pays, justice à leur demande.

On nous permettra d'être sceptique à cet égard. On nous dit bien qu'il y a un certain arrêt dans la désorganisation de notre milice, que les listes de nomination sont définitivement arrêtées, que des officiers actifs et capables ont été appelés dans l'Etat-Major, &c. Tout cela est fort bien, mais n'est insuffisant du moment que les qualités et la capacité militaire de la direction supérieure laissent tant à désirer.

No. 355.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 59.)

My Lord, *Philippopolis, July* 12, 1879.

THE case of the Italian assassin tortured by the Police-Master of this town has been assuming considerable gravity during the last few days, the Italian Commissioner having been instructed by his Government to demand immediate and signal reparation.

Six days ago M. Vernoni made that demand, and accepted the assurance of Aleko Pasha that he would appoint a Commission of Inquiry, to which he would attach the Baron de Ring and M. de Braunschweig, provided they would accept such a duty.

The French and German Commissioners accepted, at first unconditionally, the proposal of the Governor-General, but later agreed to be merely present at the inquiry, without receiving an appointment as members of the Commission.

While negotiations to that effect were on foot, the Police-Master resigned; while denying the accusation brought against him; but M. Vernoni, by dint of strong representations, prevented the resignation from being accepted. It was then notified to the Police-Master that he was required to appear before a Commission of Inquiry; upon which Captain Sokolovsky replied that, as he was a Russian officer, he would not appear either before a Commission or any other Tribunal, and that he had received orders to join the Russian troops at Bourgas.

A telegram to the latter effect from General Lipinski, the Chief of General Stolipine's Staff, was inclosed in the Police-Master's letter to the Governor-General.

The Secretary-General communicated yesterday to M. Vernoni the position assumed by Captain Sokolovsky, and requested his advice as to what further steps should be taken in the matter.

The Italian Commissioner insisted that Captain Sokolovsky should be immediately arrested, as he was a Roumelian, not a Russian officer; that the Governor-General, being convinced of his guilt, both from the testimony that had been obtained and from the fact of his refusal to submit to an inquiry, should order him to be placed under arrest for a period of twelve to sixteen days, and declare him to be dismissed from the service of the province. M. Vernoni further demanded that the Governor-General should address to him, as well as to the French Consul, a letter stating that the above measures had been carried into execution, and expressing his regret at the occurrence to the Italian and French Governments.

In consequence of this understanding General Vitalis called upon Captain Sokolovsky to give up his sword; but the latter refused to do so, again on the ground that he is a Russian officer.

General Polivanski, in command of the Russian troops in this district, was then appealed to by the local Government, and his Excellency has undertaken to compel Captain Sokolovsky, either to submit to a Court of Inquiry or to join the Russian forces at Bourgas, with a report on his conduct that will secure the infliction of the punishment which he has merited.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 356.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 61.) *Philippopolis, July 12, 1879.*

My Lord,

ALEKO PASHA having complained yesterday to the Italian Commissioner about the manner in which he was being thwarted by the Porte in the performance of his duties, and having instanced the repeated refusal of the Porte to confirm M. Kessiakoff Iscroff in the post of Director of Justice, M. Vernoni pointed out to his Excellency that the retention of M. Kessiakoff in office after his rejection by the Sultan might be considered "an act of rebellion."

I learn that M. Kessiakoff has, since yesterday, ceased to exercise the functions of Director of Justice, having, in fact, placed his resignation in the hands of the Governor-General, without reference to the refusal of the Porte to confirm his appointment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 357.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 62.) *Philippopolis, July 12, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, herewith, the copy of a letter which I received the day before yesterday from the Secretary General, informing me that the Report of the Commission on the Carlovo outrage had been referred back to the Commission for simplification.

The German Commissioner has just obtained from Aleko Pasha a copy of the Report, which he will cause to be translated from the Bulgarian.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 357.

M. Crestovitch to Mr. Michell.

Philippopoli, le 10 Juillet, 1879.

M. le Consul-Général,

PAR ordre de son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général, j'ai l'honneur de vous faire savoir que le rapport de la Commission d'Enquête pour l'affaire de Carlovo a été présenté hier en Conseil Privé; mais qu'ayant été trouvé non suffisant il a été décidé et ordonné que l'enquête soit poursuivie et complétée au plus tôt possible.

Agréez, &c.
Le Secrétaire-Général,
(Signé) G. CRESTOVITCH.

No. 358.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 303.) *Therapia, July 9, 1879.*

My Lord,

BY an official notice, of which I inclose a copy from the "Turquie," the authorities of the Sandjaks of Janina, Tricalla, and Prevesa have been directed to sell by public auction all farms belonging to the State, and to inform the Ministry of Finance within five or six days of the prices offered for them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 358.

Extract from "La Turquie" of July 9, 1879.

MINISTÈRE DES FINANCES.

Avis.

LES autorités des sandjaks de Janina, de Preveza, et de Tukkala ont été invitées par télégraphe à mettre en vente aux enchères publiques séparément toutes les fermes appartenant à l'Etat, et de faire connaître dans cinq ou six jours les offres qui seraient faites.

Les personnes qui voudraient concourir à cette adjudication sont prévenues qu'elles doivent s'adresser immédiatement aux autorités locales des susdits sandjaks.

Constantinople, le 25 Juin, 1879 (v. s.).

No. 359.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 305.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 10, 1879.*

THE Austro-Hungarian Ambassador has been somewhat uneasy about the alleged departure from Constantinople of a considerable number of Softas for Bosnia and the district of Novi-Bazar, and has asked for explanations from the Porte on the subject. I took an opportunity of inquiring of Caratheodory Pasha whether the fears of my colleague were well-founded, as to the object of these Softas being to stir up the Mussulmans against the Austrians. His Excellency informs me that about this period of the year, that is to say a short time previous to the holy month of Ramazan, the Softas, or students of the Mussulman religion and law in the colleges of Constantinople, return to their homes in different parts of the Empire for their usual holidays. There are between 2,000 and 3,000 of them, who thus disperse themselves over the European and Asiatic provinces. About 600 or 700 have left, or are leaving, for Bosnia, Albania, and Thessaly. Satisfactory assurances will, his Excellency tells me, be given to Count Zichy that no danger whatever is to be apprehended from their presence in those provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 360.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 306. Secret.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 11, 1879.*

YOUR Lordship has been good enough to transmit to me, for my information, in your No. 507 of the 3rd instant, two despatches from Sir Augustus Paget, in which his Excellency expresses his disbelief in the policy, attributed to Italy, with reference to Albania, and in the intrigues which, it is alleged, she is carrying on amongst the populations of that province. Sir Augustus Paget has, of course, the best means of forming an impartial and trustworthy opinion on this subject; but I would observe to your Lordship that Count Corti, himself, has admitted to me that the Government of M. Depretis, and a certain party in Italy, had designs as to the annexation of Albania, which, however, he earnestly disapproved and condemned. As Count Corti's statement was made to me in the strictest confidence and in private conversation, I trust that he will not be allowed to know that I have repeated it officially to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 361.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July 22.*)

(No. 607.)
Therapia, July 11, 1879.

My Lord,

IN a London newspaper of the 2nd instant, I find the following:—

"Sir Henry Layard, a Constantinople telegram states, has sent a despatch to Lord Salisbury, in which he gives an account of ill-treatment suffered by the Turkish population at the hands of the Bulgarians, and refers to the existence of a Russian Panslavist Propaganda in Macedonia. Mr. Palgrave, on the other hand, in a despatch to the Foreign Office, defends the conduct of the Bulgarian Christians, among whom he is said to be popular."

I beg to point out to your Lordship that this statement of the contents of Mr. Palgrave's despatches, one of them addressed to me, was published before those despatches reached me, and I cannot but call your Lordship's particular attention to this fact, with reference to my relations with that gentleman.

I have thought it right to communicate these despatches to the Porte for such observations as it may have to make upon them, as the charges against the Bulgarians for ill-treating the Mohammedan population and depriving them of their property, which have been brought to the notice of your Lordship by me, came from the Turkish Government, as well as from the alleged victims of Bulgarian persecutions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 362.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 22.)

(No. 608.)
Therapia, July 12, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Major Trotter's despatch No. 48, of the 28th ultimo, a copy of which is forwarded to your Lordship by this messenger, I have the honour to inclose copy of a *note verbale* I have addressed to the Porte, calling attention to the outrages to which the Armenians of the district of Gönüg are subjected, and urging that the most rigorous measures should be taken for the protection of the Sultan's Armenian subjects in Kurdistan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 362.

Note Verbale.

HER Majesty's Ambassador desires to submit to the Sublime Porte a statement relating to the oppression and outrages to which the Armenians of the village of Ogmon, in the district of Gönüg, in Kurdistan, are subjected by Kurdish Chiefs. Her Majesty's Ambassador is aware that the facts mentioned in it have been brought to the notice of the Commission sent by the Imperial Government to enquire into the condition of the vilayet of Erzeroum and the neighbouring districts, and he cannot doubt but that the Commissioners, anxious to perform the mission confided to them in a just, impartial, and energetic manner, will take measures to ensure redress and protection to the inhabitants of Ogmon. The state of things existing in this village unhappily appears to prevail over a great part of the east of Anatolia, comprised in what is called Kurdistan. The object of Her Majesty's Ambassador in calling the special notice of the Sublime Porte to it is to draw its earnest attention to the intolerable oppression under which the Armenian subjects of the Sultan are suffering, in the hope that the most rigorous measures will be adopted to carry out the intentions and promises of His Imperial Majesty, that all his subjects, without distinction of race or creed, shall be placed on a footing of perfect equality, and shall receive his protection. It would, unhappily, appear that the only authority now existing in those districts, to which Her Majesty's Ambassador has referred, is that of Kurdish Agas and Beys,

who exercise it in plundering, outraging, and oppressing the unfortunate Christians under their rule.

Therapia, July 9, 1879.

A. H. L.

No. 363.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 22.)

(No. 609.)
My Lord,
Therapia, July 12, 1879.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 864 of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a *note verbale* which I have addressed to the Porte on the subject of the employment of British officers in the organization of the gendarmerie.

The statements contained in the extract from Captain Coope's letter, which your Lordship has been good enough to forward to me for my information, although perhaps somewhat exaggerated, are substantially true. I may state that Baker Pasha, on my requesting him to recommend to the Turkish Commission sent to Erzeroum a British officer for the organization of the gendarmerie in that province, has suggested the name of Captain Coope, and has promised to endeavour to procure his early return to Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 363.

Note Verbale.

HER Majesty's Ambassador has been instructed by Her Majesty's Government to call the serious attention of the Porte to the obstacles which have been interposed in the way of the British officers engaged by the Turkish Government to organize the gendarmerie, and the difficulties with which they have had to contend in consequence of the opposition which, there is reason to believe, proceeds from the Ministry of War.

Her Majesty's Government earnestly urge upon the Sublime Porte not to neglect till too late the opportunity which the presence of their officers offers to organize an efficient gendarmerie, to the absence of which the lawlessness and insecurity for life and property prevailing through the Sultan's dominions are mainly to be ascribed.

Her Majesty's Ambassador desires further to point out that in the rare instances where British officers have been appointed to organize the gendarmerie the Ministry of War has refused to give them sufficient authority to do so, and to exact obedience from the men who ought to be placed under their orders. He may mention the case of Colonel Blunt, who has been impeded in the discharge of his duties at Adrianople, although he had entered on them in a manner which appeared to have deserved general satisfaction, by the refusal of the Ministry of War to obtain him a Firman conferring upon him the necessary rank, or to assist him in any way.

Her Majesty's Ambassador need hardly remind the Sublime Porte that the engagements which Turkey has contracted towards England as regards the establishment, without delay, of a proper gendarmerie are engagements which Her Majesty's Ambassador is persuaded it is the intention of the Porte to loyally fulfil.

A. H. L.

Therapia, July 12, 1879.

No. 364.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 22.)

(No. 613.)
My Lord,
Therapia, July 13, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 485, Confidential, of the 12th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose copy of a note from the Porte, in reply to the representations

I had addressed to it with regard to the state of the Province of Diarbekir, as reported in Major Trotter's despatch to your Lordship No. 10 of the 9th May.

I have communicated the Porte's statement to Major Trotter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 364.

Note Verbale.

AUSSITOT que l'autorité eût connaissance des désordres de Maza-Dagh, elle y expédia des troupes qui arrivèrent à temps pour rétablir la tranquillité. D'autres détachments furent envoyés de Malatia à Sivrik, et des fonctionnaires spéciaux furent chargés de porter aux principaux Chefs de tribus les exhortations et les recommendations nécessaires. Grâce à ces mesures tout danger d'un conflit grâve a été conjuré.

Depuis la nomination du Vali actuel, la plus grande partie des arriérés dus à la police ont été payés, et l'on s'occupe du paiement du reste.

Les autorités de Sardes ont été invités à fournir des explications à propos de l'élargissement des condamnés et la non-punition des coupables.

Le second Commissaire Impérial à été désigné pour ouvrir, avec l'assistance du Président du Tribunal de Première Instance de Diarbekir, une enquête sur les actes abusifs imputés par la population à Khourchid Bey, Muessarif de Nardin, ainsi que sur les méfaits commis à Medyad. Le résultat, de cette enquête sera communiqué à la Sublime Porte. En attendant, les autorités veillent toujours avec vigilance au maintien de l'ordre et de la sécurité.

Sublime Porte, le 12 Juillet, 1879.

No. 365.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury—(*Received July 22.*)

(No. 614.) *Therapia, July 13*, 1879.

My Lord,

I RECEIVED yesterday evening two telegrams, copies of which I have the honour to inclose, from Consul Henderson and Lieutenant Chermside, relating to the treatment of the Armenian Christians of Zeitoun and the misconduct of Mahzar Pasha. The information they contained appeared to me of sufficient gravity to warrant me in sending Sir Alfred Sandison early this morning to the Grand Vizier and the Minister of Foreign Affairs with the inclosed Memorandum of the language which I wished him to hold to them on the subject. Sir Alfred Sandison informs me that this communication made a deep impression upon the two Ministers, and that they agreed to summon a special Council for to-morrow at which they would propose that a new Commissioner should be appointed, who might be Midhat Pasha or Yussuf Pasha of Trebizond (a very good choice), with extraordinary powers to deal justly and impartially with the question of Zeitoun, and to punish Mahzar Pasha and others who may have failed in their duty in this matter.

I beg to inclose copy of the Report addressed to me by Sir Alfred Sandison of what took place at his interviews with Hairedin and Carathéodory Pashas.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 365.

Lieutenant Chermside and Consul Henderson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Aleppo, July 12, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

WE were preparing a Joint Report as to the utter hopelessness of the Commission, as at present constituted, effecting any good result. Urgency of circumstances [?] us to suggest immediate action in the hope of obviating its total failure. Since his visit to Marash, Mazhar Pasha has completely identified himself with the interests of the fanatical party at Constantinople. The gross abuse of his extraordinary powers of patronage, and the baneful effect of his actions and conduct paralyze that of the Vali, of whose tact and impartiality we have a very high opinion. If no steps are taken Christian Commissioner, of whom both Vali and ourselves think very highly, and whose presence in the province is most beneficial to the Christians, will tender his resignation. This conduct on the part of Mazhar has completely destroyed the prestige of the Commission throughout the country, a result rendered very serious owing to the magnitude of the interests at stake, the unfortunate effect of the complete disappointment of the intense expectation of all classes, and the utter discredit it will throw on the Porte's promises and English influence. The opportunity is one which may not occur again, and it is impossible accurately to guage the disastrous effects of failure. Very serious evidence of the revival of fanatism (owing ?) to the encouragement furnished by Mazhar Pasha's conduct, and the want of the success of the Commission are of frequent occurrence in this very district, and Mussulmans taunt Christians with its ill success, and instance it as showing how little they can hope for in appealing to the Powers. The Vali, whose position is anomalous, could properly act as Commissioner with Mourrian Effendi, the presence of (members ?), however complicated the situation, and now the sphere of the Commission is limited to one province. The necessity is no longer apparent, especially as owing to habits and infirmities Mazhar Pasha shows no indination to leave Aleppo. Mazhar Pasha has expressed a wish to be named Vali of the Hedjaz. Could this be possibly managed, as his removal seems the one chance of success. In any case it would seem most desirable that he should be appointed somewhere else, especially so if there were no Christians, and that he should proceed there at once direct, so as to obviate the inevitable intrigues in which he would otherwise engage in Constantinople. We think it right to inform you that opposition may be looked for from Kadi Pasha and the Sultan's Bandmaster.

Inclosure 2 in No. 365.

Lieutenant Chermside and Consul Henderson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Aleppo, July 12*, 1879.

WE have received your most welcome telegram with reference to amnesty. Of the eighty men on the mountain, whose number is varying, as arrest he only ordered again, [?] others come and go, not one single one has been amnestied, the treatment at Marash having terrified them, and deprived the promises of the authorities of any value whatever. Of the political prisoners at Marash eleven are to be condemned to death, and the remaining 130 to terms varying from three to fifteen years.

It now appears on statement of Commissioners that eight of the miserable victims seized by Kiamil Pasha, who died in the prison at Marash, were innocent of any crime, no accusation even having been brought against them, and incredible as it seems, their names not even appearing on the prison books. Twenty-one similar circumstances who survived were the only prisoners liberated by the Commission. The prisoners have been retransferred to two rooms on the lower storey in this hot unhealthy weather. The full rigour of the criminal law is being exercised on all proved charges against what ought to be considered political prisoners, over 120 of whom can at worst be only looked on as subordinates to justify their wholesale arrest by Government officials.

Inclosure 3 in No. 365.

Memorandum for Sir A. Sandison.

YOU will communicate to the Grand Vizier and Carathéodory Pasha the substance of the two telegrams received from Aleppo relating to the affairs of Zeitoun and the treatment of the Christians. You will say that I consider that I have been deceived with regard to what has been done for the protection of the Christians and for ensuring to them justice and redress, and that I cannot any longer lend myself to deceiving my Government. The Commission seems to have been appointed merely to throw dust in their eyes. I shall communicate these telegrams to Lord Salisbury, and will his instructions before seeing his Highness and Carathéodory Pasha again about other business. I cannot permit it to be said that I am indifferent to the cruelties and

oppression exercised towards the Christians. I care not who protects Mazhar Pasha. His conduct has been such that he should be at once recalled. Unless measures are at once taken to do justice in the case of the Christians of Zeitoun, the consequences may be serious. I wash my hands of all responsibility. Whatever happens, the Porte will only have itself to blame, and I solemnly warn it that already the treatment of the Christian subjects of the Sultan in Asia is creating a strong feeling of indignation in England which may have most deplorable results.

I am preparing a very strong note, founded upon the telegrams, which you are to communicate to Hairredin and Carathéodory Pashas. It will be sent in at once, unless you can bring me back some assurance that Mazhar Pasha will be recalled, and some one, in whom I can have confidence, sent in his place.

Inclosure 4 in No. 365.

Sir A. Sandison to Sir A. H. Layard.

Therapia, July 13, 1879.

Sir,

I COMMUNICATED to the Grand Vizier the two telegrams received from Aleppo together with your Excellency's instructions to me of this day's date.

His Highness considered it but just to observe that the Porte is placed in a very difficult position in this way, that no Turkish official will ever be safe or willing to serve, if on the mere complaint or veto of an English agent, who may be misled by interested persons, or who may commit an error in judgment, he is to be recalled or made to undergo some other punishment.

His Highness declared he was far from wishing to vouch for the impartiality and integrity of the Turkish officials in general; but it was fair, he thought, that accusations brought against them, by British agents, should first be properly substantiated before the Porte was called upon to act with severity against them.

In the present instance, Mazhar Pasha represented matters in one way, the British agents in another, thus rendering it almost impossible both for the Porte and the Embassy to assert with authority, "at such a distance from the scene of action," who is right and who is wrong.

If Mazhar Pasha has failed to do his duty, his Highness pledges himself to punish him severely for it; but in order to arrive at the real truth, it would only be an act of common justice that his conduct should first be properly inquired into by some disinterested high functionary, offering the necessary guarantees for his integrity and sense of duty. His Highness said he was ready to send me on the spot without loss of time, but that no satisfactory result was likely to be arrived at, unless the Embassy sent also, in its turn, some agent in whom it placed full confidence, with instructions to inquire carefully into the merits of the charges brought against Mazhar Pasha. By these means, the real truth would be brought to light; and Mazhar Pasha will not only be punished, if found guilty, but the Porte's proposed new Commissioners would see also that the affairs of Zeitoun are properly disposed of to the general satisfaction.

Recalling Mazhar Pasha and replacing him by another functionary, added his Highness, would be simply returning to the present situation, if the slightest complaint against him were to reach the Embassy from its present Agents at Aleppo, who, though impartial and unbiased, cannot be looked upon as being absolutely infallible in a case where there may be conflicting evidence and other circumstances to be taken into consideration.

I thought proper to tell his Highness that some of the charges in question rested upon the very facts communicated to the English Agents by the Commission itself, whilst others were founded upon facts of public notoriety, and that, on the whole, the general conduct of Mazhar Pasha called most unquestionably for his immediate removal.

His Highness replied that on acquiring further proofs of his misconduct, he would have the double satisfaction of punishing an unworthy official and of doing at the same time full justice to the cause of the Zeitounlis.

On my urging, however, the objections I saw to this course during my subsequent interview with Carathéodory Pasha, his Excellency, after a short consultation with the Grand Vizier, came to tell me that, in order to take prompt action, by way of satisfying your Excellency, a special Council of Ministers will be held to-morrow for the purpose of appointing a new High Commissioner (who will probably be Midhat Pasha or Yusuf Pasha, ex-Minister of Finance) with extraordinary powers to deal quickly and impartially with the general question of Zeitoun.

As far as I was able to understand, the new Commissioner will also be empowered to punish Mazhar Pasha and such other Turkish officials who may have failed to do their duty or misconducted themselves in the affairs of Zeitoun.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. SANDISON.

No. 366.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 615.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 14, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a petition addressed to the Representatives of the Powers who signed the Treaty of Berlin by the Mussulman inhabitants of the territories ceded to Servia, complaining of their treatment by the Servian authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 366.

Petition of Mussulman Residents in Servia.

M. le Ministre.

NOUS, Soussignés, Président et Membres du Comité chargé par les habitants Musulmans des territoires annexés par la Serbie, avons l'honneur d'exposer respectueusement à votre Excellence les faits suivants :—

Nos mandants et nous-mêmes sommes propriétaires de biens-fonds de diverses natures : maisons, boutiques, fermes, champs labourés, pâturages, etc., situés dans les anciens arrondissements de Nisch, Cheibkeny, Lescofetcha, Ivrania, Erkemp, Koursbunlu, et Akpalanka, actuellement cédés à la Principauté de Serbie.

Par la protection de Dieu, nos propriétés ont échappé intactes aux dévastations de la dernière guerre, aussi, lorsque la paix fut conclue, malgré que nos biens eussent cessé d'être terres Ottomanes, nous comptions rester paisiblement en possession de ce qui nous appartenait.

En effet, les Articles XXXV et XXXIX du Traité de Berlin stipulent expressément que dans les arrondissements cédés, Musulmans et Chrétiens jouiront également des droits civils et politiques, et auront la libre disposition de leurs meubles et immeubles.

En dehors des stipulations du Traité de Berlin, le droit des gens en vigueur chez toutes les nations civilisées, protége les propriétés privées et les met à l'abri en temps de paix de toute confiscation arbitraire.

Hélas ! le Traité de Berlin et les principes du droit des gens devaient être impuissants à nous protéger.

A peine les autorités Ottomanes se furent-elles retirées et le Gouvernement Serbe fut-il entré en possession de son nouveau territoire, que l'autorité Serbe fit ce que ni la guerre civile ni les armées Russes n'avaient fait, en confisquant à plaisir nos bêtes de somme, nos animaux de labour, nos instruments agricoles, nos semences, nos récoltes sur pied ou emmagasinées, en s'emparant de nos femmes, maisons et magasins, en un mot, en se conduisant comme un ennemi en pays ennemi.

Toutes les réclamations que nous avons adressées jusqu'à présent au Gouvernement Serbe du chef de ses dévastations sont restées vaines.

Dans ces circonstances il ne nous reste qu'à nous adresser aux Puissances Signataires de Traité de Berlin, et garantes de son exécution, pour leur demander leur haute protection, en faveur du droit et de la justice violés à notre préjudice.

Nous adressons une requête identique à son Altesse le Grand Vizir et aux Représentants des autres Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, et nous supplions votre Excellence de bien vouloir se concerter avec ses collègues pour l'institution d'une Commission Internationale, qui examinera le bien-fondé de nos réclamations, et évaluer le montant de dommage que nous avons subi.

En même temps, nous sollicitons humblement la haute intervention des Puissances

auprès du Gouvernement Princier de Serbie, pour qu'il veuille bien nous faire justice pour le passé, sur les bases qui seront fixées par la Commission, et nous assurer pour l'avenir la libre jouissance de nos biens, conformément aux principes de droit des gens, plus expressément consacrés par le Traité de Berlin, auquel la Serbie doit les territoires sur lesquels nos propriétés sont situées.

Nous avons, &c.
(Suivent les signatures.)

No. 367.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July 22.*)

(No. 616.) *Therapia, July 15, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches upon matters of interest in their respective districts, which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls at Erzeroum, Rustchuk, Varna, Bourgas, and Adrianople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 367.

Major Trotter to Sir A. H. Layard.

Erzeroum, June 28, 1879.

Sir,

IN acknowledging your Excellency's despatch of the 17th May, on the subject of the condition of the Christian inhabitants of Geghi, I have the honour to state that on receipt thereof I lost no time in laying the matter before the Imperial Commissioners. The long but well written Memorandum, drawn up by the Protestant Vekil, and inclosed in your Excellency's despatch, has been translated into Turkish by the Procurator-General, and has been carefully studied by the Commissioners, who have resolved to summon the principal of the accused Aghas to Erzeroum, where a searching inquiry will shortly be held.

Numerous petitions from the same district, from both Mussulmans and Christians, have been received by the Commissioners, independently of others which have been handed them by me, and there is no doubt in my mind that the allegations contained in the Memorandum before alluded to are substantially true.

The Commissioners have been specially urged by the Porte to pay early attention to Geghi affairs.

The Vali Pasha has also received separate instructions to the same effect, and prior to the quite recently formed resolution of the Commissioners to hold an inquiry themselves in Erzeroum, the Vali Pasha decided to send a special Commissioner to inquire into matters *in situ*, to consist of two Mussulmans and two Christian members. On my representation the Vali appointed a Protestant as one of the latter.

The Imperial Commissioners appear to have taken umbrage at the appointment of this Special Commission, at a time when the Vali Pasha knew that they were themselves stirring in the matter, and I shall exert my influence with the Vali to try and induce them to leave this question entirely in the hands of the Imperial Commission, who have already, through the Vali, requisitioned the presence of the chief of the offending Aghas.

I am requested by your Excellency to return the original Memorandum, of which I have kept a copy, and, as a fitting pendant to it, I inclose a translation of a petition recently addressed to myself by some villagers of Göndj, a sub-district of Geghi. The Agha complained against has been summoned to Erzeroum; but, as the same individual disregarded three similar summonses that have been sent to him during the past six months, it is doubtful whether his presence will be secured, as he lives in a district where the Imperial power is hardly felt. It remains to be seen what steps the Imperial Commissioners will take to secure his attendance.

The details of the petition, which are well authenticated, confirm generally the statements in the longer Memorandum, which refers to another portion of the same district.

From what I learned during the winter in Diarbekir Vilayet, I fear that the state of things described in the Memorandum exists, more or less, in all the wilder parts of Kurdistan.

I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy of this despatch for transmission to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 367.

Major Trotter to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Erzeroum, July 4, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that by this weeks' post the Imperial Commissioners have dispatched to Constantinople for approval their scheme for the new gendarmerie of this province.

In the instructions given by the Sublime Porte the Imperial Commissioners were directed to form a local Commission at Erzeroum, and with the assistance of the Governor to organize a police force for the vilayet, on the principles laid down in the gendarmerie scheme recently elaborated in Constantinople. Working in co-operation with the Minister of Police, they were directed to eliminate from the existing force all officers and men against whom complaints of dishonesty and inefficiency could be substantiated. Great care, however, was to be taken that the expenses of the new organization should not exceed those of the old and admittedly inefficient one. In case, however, it were found absolutely necessary to increase the present rate of expenditure, instructions were to be obtained from the Sublime Porte before any alterations were made.

In compliance with their instructions, a local Commission was formed in Erzeroum consisting of the Imperial Commissioners, the Vali Pasha, and two delegates selected by the Vali from each of the dependent Sandjaks of Erzeroum, Erzinjian, Bayazid, and Baiburt. It is the detailed Report of this Commission that has now been forwarded to Constantinople for sanction and approval.

The total police force proposed for the vilayet (mixed Christian and Mahommedan) is 25 officers and 1,233 men, of whom 688 are to be mounted and the remaining 545 foot police. It is unnecessary that I should trouble your Excellency with the details of the location of this force, which have been worked out by the local members of the Commission, who consider that the numbers above given are the least with which order can, under ordinary circumstances, be maintained.

The pay which it is proposed to give to the members of the new force, viz., 187½ piastres monthly for a horseman, and 150 for foot zaptiehs, together with forage and bread, is nearly double the former miserably insufficient rates of pay, and it will now be possible for a zaptieh to live honestly, if at least he receives his salary regularly.

The total annual expenditure on the new force is estimated at 4,800,000 piastres, being an increase of 2,000,000 piastres on the old nominal expenditure.

As the Commissioners have ascertained, on inquiry, that all the superior officers of the existing police force are inefficient or corrupt, or both one and the other, they have requested the Porte to supply the superior officers from Constantinople.

As the new force is to be divided into four battalions, it is considered that the Chief should have the rank and emoluments of Kaimakam instead of the superior rank of Mir Alai held by the present incumbent.

It is, I understand, proposed that, when the new officers arrive from the capital, the whole of the existing force should be disbanded, those officers and men only being re-engaged who can give satisfactory evidence as to good character and general efficiency.

If this proposal be carried out it is manifest that an enormous amount of patronage and power will rest in the hands of the new head of the police, and it is hardly necessary that I should point out that, should the new Chief be open to bribes, it is probable that the whole of the worst characters in the present force, both officers and men, will be re-entertained, while the poorer but probably more honest members will have a fair chance of losing their places.

It is therefore of the utmost importance that an experienced and incorruptible official be appointed from Constantinople to organize and start the new gendarmerie.

This officer should be supernumerary to the fixed establishment, and with a special high scale of pay and allowances.

In my opinion, the gendarmerie will never be efficient unless an European official be placed at the head. I do not think the Christians will join the force in any numbers unless an European Chief be appointed.

The latter ought also to have at least one or two other Europeans under his orders. It is only by this means that fair treatment will be secured to both Mahommedans and Christians.

I fancy Her Majesty's Government have long since come to the conclusion that the financial affairs of the Empire cannot be placed on a satisfactory footing without the aid of European officials, and it is my firm opinion that the same holds good of every department of the State, and the sooner Her Majesty's Government recognizes this fact the better it will be for this country.

The Commissioners have not specially recommended that an European be appointed to organize the new gendarmerie, although, in conversation, they have both agreed with me that such an appointment would be highly desirable. The fact that they have applied to Constantinople for all the superior officers is, at all events, a proof of the dearth of good material on the spot.

I would beg respectfully to urge your Excellency to press the matter on the Sublime Porte, and to insist on, at least, one European officer being appointed, *i.e.*, supposing a competent man can be found to accept the post. Early action in the matter is desirable, as the Report of the Commission goes to Constantinople by this day's post.

It is also, in my opinion, absolutely necessary that, prior to the organization of the new force, arrangements should be made to secure regular monthly payment of salaries to the officers and men of the force. This can only be done by allotting, as has been proposed by the Commission, a certain proportion of the revenues of the vilayet to be unalienably applied to the expenses of its administration. I would beg your Excellency to press this point also on the Sublime Porte.

Another matter which I deem of great importance, and which I have urged to the Commissioners, is the necessity, when disbanding the present force as proposed by the Commission, of paying up all arrears of pay due to the officers and men discharged.

With the recent example of Egypt before us, it is hardly necessary that I should insist much on this point. The greater portion of the present force is nearly two years in arrears of pay. If these arrears be made good, the men discharged would probably go contentedly to their homes; otherwise serious consequences might ensue.

I have the honour to forward a copy of this despatch for transmission to the Secretary of State.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 367.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Consul-General Palgrave.

Rustchuk, July 8, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that His Highness Prince Alexander Battenberg arrived here yesterday at 4 P.M. from Varna, and left again this morning for Tirnova.

The reception given to His Highness was of a very flattering description, and gives promise of a prosperous reign over a people who, if allowed, will remain at peace with all their neighbours, and will only seek to rival them in commerce and money-making.

In order to describe the reception I must premise that the town consists of one street over two miles long, running from the railway-station to the road to Tirnova; its width, though various, is always considerable, and at the crossing of the other streets there are sometimes pretty large open spaces, besides which it runs through the square now called Alexander. Another straight and wide street branches off at an angle near the centre of the first, and contains the palace prepared for His Highness.

On both sides of the two principal streets, along their whole length, masts were erected, the colours being alternatively Bulgar and Russian, *i.e.*, red, green, and white,

and red, blue, and white. On the masts were also placed shields, bearing the initial "A" in gold on a green ground, surrounded by a red and white border, having two bannerets at the side. The effect was very good indeed.

At the railway-station, the entrance to the town, the site of the old inner gate (now demolished), near the Palace, at the Alexander Square, and at the Tirnova end of the town, where a bridge spans the Lom, were erected triumphal arches.

From every shop along these two lines hung flags of many hues, but mostly of the Bulgar or Russian colours; and the whole effect was intensified by the grey dresses of the spectators, and above all by the bright sun. The railway-station was gaily decorated with evergreens and red cloth, and places were reserved for the Representatives of the foreign Powers, the army, clergy, and various officials, also for the Cadis, of whom a goodly number were assembled.

Outside in the Danube were anchored a fleet of three monitors and two steam despatch vessels, still flying the Russian colours, but which are said to be given to the Bulgar nation by the Czar.

As the train drew up a salute of 101 guns was fired by the 4th Battery of Artillery and answered by the fleet; and amidst the noise of the guns and the applause of the crowds, His Highness descended from his carriage, accompanied by Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff, who presented the Governor and the Mayor. The Mayor offered the bread and salt, at the same time making a short speech in English, during the delivery of which Prince Dondoukoff came and spoke to me, and afterwards to my Italian colleague; he was then introduced to the Austrian Consul-General, by whom my colleagues and myself were afterwards presented to His Highness.

Several other presentations were made, and then His Highness mounted on horseback and rode off to inspect the artillery, to the church, where there was rather a confusion of Bishops, priests, horses, Princes, and civic dignitaries, and the crowd. But luckily the horses were extricated from the crowd without accident. Afterwards His Highness continued his route to the Palace, stopping at many places to receive congratulatory addresses from the various schools, &c.

The ordinarily impassive Bulgarian and Turk seemed to be animated by enthusiasm; in fact, the crowd was such as I have never seen during my residence in the East. There was a guard of honour at the railway-station of Bulgarian militia, one at the Palace, also a handful of mounted police accompanied His Highness' suite; otherwise the crowd was restrained by a single policeman here and there, but no difficulty occurred, nor did I see a single case of drunkenness during the whole day.

Long lines of Turkish schoolboys were drawn up along the route, or walked in procession headed by their Hodjas, clad, like the Bulgars, in white with red and green scarves, and carrying banners with inscriptions; the only difference between the two races being that the Turks wore the fez, the Bulgars the kalpak.

In the evening the principal public buildings were illuminated. Prince Alexander's fine appearance has undoubtedly captivated the populace, and he commences his reign under the happiest auspices.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DALZIEL.

Inclosure 4 in No. 367.

Acting Vice-Consul Brophy to Consul-General Palgrave.

Varna, July 8, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that on Sunday, the 6th instant, His Highness Prince Alexander arrived at Varna a little before noon, his entry into the Porte being greeted by a salute of guns.

Afterwards His Highness proceeded to Orthodox Bulgarian church, where a short prayer was offered up, and thence to the konak of Varna, where he received the Consular Body and the various deputations. On the next morning the Prince left by train for Rustchuk.

Prince Alexander's reception by the people was very enthusiastic, and, not having been stimulated by any threatening of fines as on former occasions, was spontaneous, and if the intended illuminations in the evening did not succeed, it was because the high wind rendered all attempts altogether abortive.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. G. BROPHY.

Inclosure 5 in No. 367.

Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Bourgas, July 5, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that Salim Effendi, whose nomination as Governor of Aidos I mentioned in my despatch of the 16th June, proceeded to that town on the 1st instant, and was met at the outskirts by a crowd of Bulgars, who demanded to know on what errand he came. On his replying that he was named Governor, they desired to see his commision, and when this was shown they produced a kalpak (which they had ordered expressly for him from Slimnia) and ordered him to put it on, as the sole condition under which they would allow him to enter the town.

As Salim Effendi refused to do so, they advised him, for his own sake, to go back again, and he therefore returned to Ligia, half way between Aidos and Bourgas, whence he reported to the latter town what had occurred.

On the following day M. J. Petroff, Prefect of the Arrondissement of Bourgas, drove to Achialo with Salim Effendi. As soon as their arrival was known, all the shops were shut, and a crowd of more than a thousand men, women, and children (but all unarmed) assembled, and repeated their refusal to receive any Governor who would not wear the Bulgarian kalpak. M. Petroff endeavoured fruitlessly to argue them out of their determination, being continually met by the reply that "they had suffered so much by the wearers of the fez that it had become to them a symbol of tyranny and oppression. If their Governor would adopt the kalpak they thought they might be able to look upon him (though a Turk) without any bitter feeling being awakened." To this Salim Effendi replied that the kalpak not being the recognized official uniform of a Turkish functionary, he must decline to wear it until it became such, and added that, as the difficulty seemed to be insuperable, he resigned his appointment. The Bulgars then ordered him to leave the town immediately, and on M. Petroff asking permission for him to remain a few hours that they might return together, they threatened that unless the Turk withdrew it would be worse for both of them. Salim Pasha then drove off, his carriage being followed by women and children throwing stones after him.

A few hours afterwards General Stolipine arrived at Aidos on his way to Bourgas, and hearing of what had taken place, spoke so strongly to the malcontents that they agreed to accept Salim Effendi even with the objectionable fez, and some soldiers were accordingly sent to bring him back, but without success, as he had already returned to Achialo. The same evening the people of Aidos telegraphed here that, having taken counsel among themselves, they withdrew the stipulation as to the kalpak.

On the 3rd instant, M. Petroff telegraphed to Philippopolis to the following effect:—After reporting the foregoing facts, he mentioned that Salim Effendi was willing to return to Aidos only on condition that a deputation from that town should meet him here and escort him back; that he (M. Petroff) required, in addition, that his own authority as Prefect should be respected; and that a heavy fine should be inflicted on the people of Aidos as a punishment for their contumacy, or that otherwise he should be allowed to resign his post.

No answer having been yet received to this telegram, the matter remains in suspense, and may possibly so remain for some time, as any punishment of the people of Aidos would wear something like the appearance of a virtual condemnation of the line of conduct pursued under somewhat similar circumstances by his Excellency the Governor-General himself.

General Stolipine, who arrived here on the evening of the 2nd instant, left the same night for Varna. He made no political speeches to the Bulgarians.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 6 in No. 367.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Adrianople, July 6, 1879.

Sir,

I REGRET to inform your Excellency that the state of the province, which had been so remarkably satisfactory since the re-establishment of Ottoman rule, has within the last two or three weeks become less so. Whilst the southern districts in general happily continue to enjoy security, robberies, accompanied in all cases by murder, are now of daily occurrence in those to the north (especially Kirk-Kilissé) and in that of Demotica.

It is difficult to account for this altered state of things, the only redeeming feature of which is that, whilst the victims are in all cases Christians, the misdeeds do not appear to be attributable to political motives or animosities of creed or race, nor to have any other character than that of ordinary highway robberies. The only exception to this rule was one of the first cases that occurred, where three Bulgarian and two Greek traders coming from East Roumelia were assassinated just as they had crossed the border, and a large sum of money which they had with them remained untouched. No clue to the crime has yet been obtained, although several arrests have been made by the authorities on this side. Those of East Roumelia have not, so far as is known, moved in the matter, although, if it be true, as is credibly reported, that the victims on the eve of their journey had a dispute with some Christian natives of that province, suspicion points to that quarter rather than this.

In some few cases the crimes have been committed by destitute Mussulman refugees; but, by the admission of the Turkish authorities, they are in several other instances traceable to deserters from the army, and even to troops now serving in the province. A serious case of the last category occurred about a week ago on the Roumelian border towards Buyuk-Derbend. Three Bulgarian traders who were proceeding to that place were accompanied from the furthest military post to the limits of the province by a Turkish lieutenant and a corporal. These last, as they were parting with the travellers, fell upon them and left them for dead, carrying off 80 Turkish liras, which they knew the Bulgarians to have with them. One of the victims, however, survived to denounce the assassins, and these, by Réouf Pasha's orders, were forthwith arrested and brought here.

One regrettable consequence of the present diminished security of life and property will probably be the stoppage of the movement of repatriation of Christian refugees, which was, until now, proceeding in the most satisfactory manner. Only a fortnight ago a trustworthy Bulgarian informant, who had been travelling through the border districts of this province and East Roumelia, told me that, in addition to those already returned, 670 families had just come away, and that all the rest, except those known to be compromised, would follow them after gathering in the Indian corn crops which they have sown in East Roumelia; that is to say, towards the end of October. The same informant now tells me that it is to be feared all this will be changed.

On the occurrence of the crime near Buyuk-Derbend, above related, the Russian Commandant of the detachment, which is still at that place, did not fail to use the opportunity to excite alarm and distrust; and he has, I am told, recommended the inhabitants of the Christian villages near the border and on that side of it to seek safety by abandoning their homes and retiring further into the interior.

Réouf Pasha is making every effort to put a stop to this outbreak of crime, and expresses the determination to trace out and to punish with the utmost severity all those concerned in it. His Excellency has, at the same time, taken occasion to remark to me how greatly, under these circumstances, the want of an adequate force of gendarmes, and especially of mounted gendarmes, makes itself felt.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 368.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 22.)

(No. 617.)

My Lord,

Therapia, July 15, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from General Sir Collingwood Dickson reporting on his late visit to Philippopolis, and the Decrees for the organization and mobilization of the militia and gendarmerie.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 368.

General Sir C. Dickson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 145.) *Constantinople, July* 14, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that, in obedience to your instructions, dated the 23rd June, 1879, I proceeded, with Captain de Torcy, to Philippopolis, and arrived there on the 27th June. Captain de Torcy's instructions from the French Ambassador were identical with mine, *i.e.*, to aid General Vitalis with our advice in putting into execution the Regulations for the organization of the gendarmerie of Eastern Roumelia.

After consulting with General Vitalis, we found that our advice was also required to enable him to frame the Regulations for placing the present militia force of the province upon the footing laid down by the Organic Statute, or as near it as existing requirements would permit until after the elections for the Provincial Assembly have taken place, and, when that body meets, it will determine, as a financial question, the final settlement of the militia on a peace establishment. We explained this to the Governor-General and Council of Directors, who expressed their approval.

It is laid down by the Statute that a certain proportion of officers and men may be drawn from the militia to serve in the gendarmerie, and there will always be a close connection between the two services. We, therefore, felt it desirable to aid General Vitalis in his plans for the reorganization of the militia as well as of the gendarmerie.

I forward herewith copies of two Decrees signed by the Governor-General, entitled "No. 1, Copie de l'Ordonnance de Mobilisation de la Milice," "No. 2, Copie de l'Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général sur l'Organisation Provisoire de la Gendarmerie."

I have been unable to make a second copy of these Decrees, and I would therefore suggest that, should your Excellency send them home to-morrow, a request be made for copies to be transmitted to you from London.

You will perceive that the Decree for the gendarmerie is styled provisional; it is so because the departments (six in number) of the province have not yet been able to fix and determine the limits of the cantons into which they are subdivided, and the ultimate posts and stations of the sections of gendarmerie who are placed in each canton cannot be finally arranged until this delimitation has been made.

The strength of the gendarmerie has been fixed by the Council of Directors at 370 mounted gendarmes and 880 foot, exclusive of a small body of gendarmerie mobile of 40 horse and 70 foot gendarmes, who are kept at the disposal of the Governor-General to meet any special emergency. The total strength of the force will be 410 mounted and 950 foot gendarmes, 1,360 in all. Their disposition is shown in a Table attached to the Decree (No. 2), and the numbers of mounted and dismounted men are allotted to each department in proportion to its extent and the nature of the country in which they will have to serve. The strength of the gendarmerie is not limited to the above-mentioned numbers, but is capable of increase upon its present cadres according to requirements and the financial power of the province (*vide* Organic Statute, Chapter XIII, and Appendix thereto).

In dealing with the militia, it had to be borne in mind that a reconstruction was necessary for this force, and that twelve battalions (two for each department) had to be formed from the existing nine. The arrangements for effecting this are shown in No. 1 Decree (Ordonnance de Mobilisation de la Milice). General Vitalis had also to contend against a strong feeling on the part of the Council of Directors, as well as on that of the Bulgarians of the province, that the militia ought not to be reduced in numerical strength (it now numbers between 6,000 and 7,000 men). The new organization makes no apparent diminution of these numbers, but when the Decree is put into execution and carried out in its details, the militia will probably number about 3,700 men, and these can be finally placed upon the strength on a peace footing (1,500 men), when the Provincial Assembly finds out the great strain upon its finances caused by keeping up a larger force of militia, in addition to the necessary and costly body of gendarmerie.

The 12 battalions of militia newly arranged by the Decree consist of 36 companies (3 to each battalion) of a strength of about 160 to 180 men each.

Nine companies have been selected to proceed to the head-quarters, in each department, of the battalions they are to represent. These will constitute the permanent companies of these battalions, in accordance with the rules of Chapter XII of the Organic Statute on the Militia.

Two more companies will be selected to form the small battalion of instruction to be permanently retained at Philippopolis.

The twenty-five companies remaining are distributed amongst the three battalions which are still kept on full strength, and will be stationed as follows, viz.:—No. 1 Battalion, Philippopolis; No. 10 Battalion, Haskeuy; No. 12 Battalion, Bourgas.

Two of these mobilized battalions will have each 9 and one will have 7 companies, and their strength at first will average from 1,500 to 1,700 men. From them some hundreds of soldiers of good character will be selected for the gendarmerie service, and finally it has been recommended that from 1,500 to 2,000 men be permitted to return to their homes for the harvest, &c., and the strength of the three mobilized battalions will probably be reduced to about 800 or 900 men in each.

The present annual cost of the militia may be estimated at about 130,000 Turkish liras, and I am of opinion that the Provincial Assembly will be desirous of speedily reducing this large military expenditure which, when the whole of the militia force has been placed on the ordinary peace establishment, ought not to exceed one-half of the above amount. The estimated annual cost of the force of gendarmerie, on the footing provided for by the Decree just signed, is about 80,000 Turkish liras; and a credit has been granted by the Council of Directors for the expenses attending the immediate organization of the gendarmerie.

By letter received from Mr. Michell, Her Majesty's Consul-General and Commissioner for Eastern Roumelia, I am informed that the Governor-General on the 7th instant signed the lists of officers appointed to the militia and gendarmerie which were presented to him by General Vitalis.

The officers so appointed to posts in the militia are, with a few exceptions, those now serving; and such officers of militia as appeared adapted for the gendarmerie service, and who were desirous of entering it, have been appointed to that force.

I regret much to inform your Excellency that I do not believe General Vitalis can succeed in becoming a fit or capable Chief for the militia and gendarmerie of Eastern Roumelia.

In my knowledge this officer has displayed an utter want of tact and temper in his dealings with the Governor-General and Council of Directors (of which he is *ex officio* a member), and in his direction of military affairs he has caused great discontent amongst the officers under his command, and this to an extent that must paralyze his endeavours to carry out the difficult and onerous task intrusted to his supervision. He has no talent for military organization, and is incapable of planning any system that would enable him to exercise a proper control over the services of which he is the head. I am aware that on his first appointment he had to encounter the dislike of the Bulgarian people to having a foreigner at the head of their militia and gendarmerie, and unfortunately he had not sufficient temper or ability to enable him to overcome the prejudice against him, and by his conduct he has increased this to such a degree that, although I declined to receive officially the complaints made about him, having been so directed by your Excellency, the Governor-General and some members of the Council informed me it would be quite impossible for the military command to remain much longer in his hands, and that though the Decrees just signed ought to facilitate the work of General Vitalis, they considered him incapable of carrying them out properly. I was informed that they did not object to a foreign officer replacing him, should he have to retire, but would willingly receive a good one of tact and military ability.

I confess with regard to the incapacity of General Vitalis I must agree with the opinions above expressed, and I fear I may anticipate much trouble to the provincial militia and gendarmerie if he remain in command. With regard to a suitable officer to succeed him, I have reason to believe that there is not any likelihood of another French officer being put forward, but there is a great wish, if some one be not found, of a Bulgarian Colonel, Kossakoff, an officer of long standing in the Russian army, being brought forward to re-occupy the post, which he had filled up to the date of appointment of General Vitalis.

I have to thank Captain de Torcy for his cordial and valuable co-operation; and as a proof of the esteem in which this officer is held, the Governor-General and some members of the Council informed me that they would like to obtain his services as successor to Vitalis; and this certainly would be a very desirable appointment, even if only for a time, until a proper person could be selected. I understand, however, on good authority, that the French Government would not approve of or sanction it, and nothing is left, therefore, in the event of the command becoming vacant, but to look

elsewhere for a good officer. Perhaps a Belgian or Spanish officer could be found who would be untrammelled by any political predilections or influences in the performance of his duties.

I derived great assistance in my intercourse with Aleko Pasha from Her Majesty's Consul-General and Commissioner, Mr. Michell, and it is due to his intervention that the Decrees were signed by the Governor-General, before my departure.

I have good reason to be assured that Captain de Torcy and the French Delegates of the Commission at Philippopolis are of the same opinion as myself respecting the unfitness of General Vitalis for his present position.

Aleko Pasha himself has added much to the difficulties of General Vitalis by receiving the protests of a committee of young Bulgarian officers (Sub-Lieutenants) against the acts of their Chief, and on one occasion his Excellency was waited upon by them, and did not rebuke them for their gross breach of military discipline. It is true he declined to receive them, but he took no steps to bring their conduct under the notice of their immediate military superior. This may be accounted for, either by his personal dislike to Vitalis, who had offended him by his rudeness, or by his fear of offending the Bulgarians of whom he appears to stand in great dread.

On my return from Philippopolis on the 7th instant, I had an interview with Raouf Pasha at Adrianople, and he requested me to make known to your Excellency the small force of Turkish gendarmes at his disposal, a force so slight as to be quite inadequate for the security and order of the vilayet. He stated that without a much stronger body of gendarmerie he could not provide for the security of the country districts, that all his applications to Ghazi Osman Pasha, the Seraskier, on this subject had not been attended. He had applied for steady old soldiers for this service, but could obtain none, nor was he allowed a sufficient number of officers capable of training the gendarmes. In fact, he could get no assistance from Constantinople, and the people in the country towns and villages were asking in vain for an efficient police to protect them.

The Pasha also mentioned the difficulty experienced in keeping up friendly relations with Eastern Roumelia. He found Aleko Pasha unable or unwilling to assist him in promoting a better feeling between the people on the borders of the two provinces.

The Bulgarians of Eastern Roumelia were disposed to regard their Turkish neighbours as enemies, and opposed all intercourse as much as possible. The people in several villages along the borders of the Eastern Roumelian portion of the Caza of Bourgas had fields and property in fruit trees, &c., within the Roumelian boundaries, and the Bulgarians would not allow these Turkish villagers to cross the borders to gather their own crops unless they first paid for the permission to do so. Again, every facility and aid had been given by Raouf Pasha's orders, to the Christians (Bulgarian and Greek), who returned to their homes, in the Vilayet of Adrianople, after having immigrated into Eastern Roumelia. But the large number of Mussulmans with their families, who are waiting near Adrianople and other towns for some assurance that they may return to their districts and homes in Eastern Roumelia, have received no such assurance that they may do so, although Raouf Pasha has endeavoured to secure for them a similar aid and protection to that which he afforded to the returning Christians in his province.

I find that the Mussulmans who remained in Eastern Roumelia, although badly treated at first, are living unmolested in their own villages and farms, &c., and several hundreds of them have enrolled their names for service in the gendarmerie of the province, and I was informed by the Governor-General that their services would be accepted in the proportion laid down by the Statute for the formation of this force.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. DICKSON, *General,*
Military Attaché.

Inclosure 2 in No. 368.

Ordonnance de Mobilisation de la Milice.

LE Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale, en vertu des pouvoirs qui lui sont conférés, et conformément aux décisions prises en Conseil à la date du 21 Juin / 3 Juillet

Arrête :

Article 1er. Les douze bataillons de milice du 1er ban dont la formation a été ordonnée par l'arrêté en date du 20 Juin, No. ; seront organisés comme il sera indiqué ci-après.

Art. 2. Conformément aux dispositions des Articles 424 et suivants du Statut Organique, seront mobilisés à l'effectif de pied de guerre les bataillons :—No. 1, de Philippopoli ; No. 10, de Haskeuy ; No. 12, de Bourgas.

Art. 3. Conformément aux dispositions des Articles 400 et 401 du Statut Organique seront organisés à l'effectif de pied de paix les bataillons Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, et 11 (Philippopoli, Tatar-Bazardjik, Carlovo, Kézanlik, Eski-Zaghra, Slivno, Yamboli, Hermanly, et Aïdos).

Art. 4. Par dérogation aux dispositions de l'Article 426, et aussi longtemps que les bataillons Nos. 1, 10, et 12 ne quitteront pas le territoire de leur district, il ne sera pas formé, dans ces bataillons, de compagnie présente et de section de dépôt.

Art. 5. Le bataillon No. 1, mobilisé à l'effectif de pied de guerre, sera formé des quatre compagnies appartenant actuellement au bataillon de Philippopoli (ancien 1er bataillon), de la 4e compagnie du bataillon de Philippopoli (ancien 2e bataillon), et des 2e et 3e compagnies du bataillon de Tatar-Bazardjik (ancien 3e bataillon).

Art. 6. Le bataillon No. 10, mobilisé à l'effectif de pied de guerre, sera formé des quatre compagnies appartenant actuellement au bataillon de Haskeuy (ancien 6e bataillon), des 2e, 3e, et 4e compagnies du bataillon de Kézanlik (ancien 4e bataillon), et des 2e et 3e compagnies du bataillon d'Eski-Zaghra (ancien 5e bataillon).

Art. 7. Le bataillon No. 12, mobilisé à l'effectif de pied de guerre, sera formé des quatre compagnies appartenant actuellement au bataillon de Bourgas (ancien 3e bataillon de la 2e brigade), des 2e et 3e compagnies du bataillon de Yamboli (ancien 2e bataillon de la 2e brigade), et des 2e et 3e compagnies du bataillon de Slivno (ancien 1er bataillon de la 2e brigade).

Art. 8. Les compagnies No. 1 des bataillons de Philippopoli (ancien 2e), de Tatar-Bazardjik (ancien 3e), de Kézanlik (ancien 4e), Eski-Zaghra (ancien 5e), de Slivno (ancien 1er), et de Yamboli (ancien 2e), serviront à constituer les compagnies présentes des bataillons de milice du premier ban, No. 2 (Philippopoli), No. 3 (Tatar-Bazardjik), No. 5 (Kézanlik), No. 6 (Eski-Zaghra), No. 7 (Slivno), No. 8 (Yamboli). La 4e compagnie du bataillon de Tatar-Bazardjik (ancien 3e), servira à constituer la compagnie présente du 4e bataillon (Carlovo) ; la 4e compagnie du bataillon de Slivno (ancien 1er de la 2e brigade) servira à constituer la compagnie présente du 11e bataillon (Aïdos) ; la 4e compagnie du bataillon de Yamboli (ancien 2e bataillon de la 2e brigade) servira à organiser la compagnie présente du 9e bataillon (Hermanly).

Art. 9. Les 2e et 3e compagnies du bataillon de Philippopoli (ancien 2e) passeront au Bataillon-Ecole pour y constituer le cadre d'infanterie (Article 405 du Statut).

Art. X. Pendant la période de formation et jusqu'au vote du prochain budget par l'Assemblée Provinciale, il pourra être dérogé, quant à l'effectif des officiers, aux prescriptions du Tableau A annexé au Chapitre XII.

Art. 11. Les mouvements résultant des dispositions prescrites ci-dessus et indiquées dans le Tableau ci-annexé, seront ultérieurement ordonnés par le Général Commandant la milice et la gendarmerie qui est chargé de l'exécution du présent arrêté.

Philippopoli, le Juin, 1879.

Le Gouverneur-Général,
(Signé) Prince VOGORIDI.

Pour ampliation :
Le Général Commandant la Milice et la Gendarmerie,
(Signé) VITALIS.

Annexe à l'Ordre No. .

TABLEAU des Modifications apportées à la Formation actuelle des Droujines.

Anciens Bataillons.	Nos. des Compagnies.	Nouvelle Répartition.
1er Bataillon de Philippopoli ..	1e 2e 3e 4e	Continuent à appartenir au 1er Bataillon de Philippopoli.
2e Bataillon, Philippopoli ..	1e 2e 3e 4e	Devient la Compagnie présente du 2e Bataillon, Philippopoli. Passent au Bataillon-Ecole (Infanterie). Passe au 1er Bataillon de Philippopoli.
3e Bataillon, Tatar-Bazardjik ..	1e 2e 3e 4e	Devient la Compagnie présente du 3e Bataillon, Tatar-Bazardjik. Passent au 1er Bataillon de Philippopoli. Devient la Compagnie présente du 4e Bataillon, Carlovo.
4e Bataillon, Késanlik (Ancien) ..	1e 2e 3e 4e	Devient la Compagnie présente du 5e Bataillon à Késanlik. Passent au bataillon de Haskeui, No. 10.
5e Bataillon (Ancien), Eski-Zaghra	1e 2e 3e 4e	Devient la Compagnie présente du 6e Bataillon à Eski-Zaghra. Passent au bataillon de Haskeuy, No. 10. Va à Bourgas, au 12e Bataillon.
6e Bataillon (Ancien), Haskeuy ..	1e 2e 3e 4e	Forment à Haskeuy le Bataillon No. 10.
Ancien 1er (2 brigades), Slivno ..	1e 2e 3e 4e	Devient la Compagnie présente No. 7 à Slivno. Vont à Bourgas au 12e Bataillon. Va à Aidos former la Compagnie présente du Bataillon No. 11.
Ancien 2e (2 brigades), Yamboli ..	1e 2e 3e 4e	Devient la Compagnie présente du Bataillon No. 8 à Yamboli. Vont à Bourgas, au 12e Bataillon. Devient la Compagnie présente du Bataillon No. 9 à Hermanli.
Ancien 3e (2 brigades), à Bourgas	1e 2e 3e 4e	Restent à Bourgas pour former le 12e Bataillon.

Inclosure 3 in No. 368.

Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général sur l'Organisation Provisoire de la Gendarmerie.

LE Gouverneur-Général, agissant en vertu des pouvoirs qui lui sont conférés, le Conseil Privé entendu,

Arrête :

Article 1er. En attendant qu'un règlement d'administration publique ait déterminé la division cantonale de la province, et permette d'organiser la gendarmerie départementale sur les bases prescrites au Statut Organique, il sera procédé, à titre provisoire, à la formation de cette force publique sur les bases indiquées ci-après.

Art. 2. Il sera pourvu immédiatement à la nomination, pour chaque département, d'un Capitaine Commandant de compagnie, et d'un nombre de Lieutenants et de Sous-Lieutenants Commandants de section sensiblement approché de celui des futurs cantons. Ces officiers se rendront immédiatement au chef-lieu de leur département respectif.

Art. 3. Aussitôt après son arrivée au chef-lieu de sa compagnie, chaque Commandant de compagnie établira, de concert avec le Préfet, une division de territoire du département en autant de sections provisoires qu'il a été mis d'officiers à sa disposition. Il assignera à chacun d'eux un chef-lieu de section, également provisoire, en ayant soin de ne désigner à cet effet que les villes proposées comme devant servir de chefs-lieux de canton.

Art. 4. Il sera immédiatement formé, dans chaque département, un personnel de sous-officiers, brigadiers, et gendarmes, de l'arme à pied et de l'arme à cheval, conformément aux indications numériques portées au Tableau ci-après :—

Département de Philippopoli—	
120 à pied	200
80 à cheval	
Département de Tatar-Bazardjik— ..	
180 à pied	260
80 à cheval	
Département de Haskeuy—	
180 à pied	230
50 à cheval	
Département de Slivno—	
100 à pied	140
40 à cheval	
Département de Yeni-Zaghra—	
100 à pied	120
20 à cheval	
Département de Bourgas—	
200 à pied	300
100 à cheval	
Total (à pied 880, à cheval 370)	1,250

(Abstraction faite de la gendarmerie mobile.)

Art. 5. Les Commandants de compagnie, aussitôt après leur entrée en fonctions, devront se préoccuper de recruter, autant que possible sur le territoire de leur département respectif, le nombre d'hommes fixé pour leur compagnie par l'Article 6 ci-dessus. Ces hommes seront recrutés :—

(1.) Parmi les hommes du corps de gendarmerie créé pendant l'occupation.

(2.) Parmi les jeunes gens du pays qui se présenteront à titre de volontaires.

(3.) Parmi les miliciens actuellement en service dans les bataillons. Le nombre de ces derniers ne devra pas excéder le tiers de l'effectif provisoirement fixé pour chaque compagnie.

Art. 6. A cet effet, les Commandants de compagnie feront connaître, par tous les moyens de publicité mis à leur disposition, les conditions générales d'admission dans le nouveau corps de la gendarmerie, et inviteront les anciens gendarmes, et les volontaires à leur faire parvenir à bref délai leur demande d'admission. En ce qui concerne les miliciens en service, ils se mettront en rapport avec les Commandants de bataillons stationnés dans le département, et n'accepteront les demandes formées par les miliciens que si elles sont transmises par la voie hiérarchique, et appuyées d'un avis favorable des Commandants de bataillon.

Pour rendre plus rapide ce travail préliminaire, les Commandants de compagnie délégueront aux Commandants de section sous leurs ordres les pouvoirs nécessaires pour recevoir les demandes des candidats, vérifier les certificats de moralité et autres documents présentés par eux, pour établir leur état civil, leur aptitude, et leurs services antérieurs, et leur feront subir la visite médicale. Les officiers de section établiront ensuite un Tableaux nominatif des candidats, en donnant sur chacune des demandes leur avis motivé, et les adresseront au Commandant de compagnie en y joignant toutes les pièces présentées par les candidats. Ce Tableau de proposition devra être signé par l'officier de santé qui aura procédé à la visite médicale.

Art. 7. Les Commandants de compagnie étudieront, de concert avec les Préfets, les états de proposition, et arrêteront la liste des candidats admis ; ils les convoqueront ensuite aux dates qu'ils fixeront, et leur feront contracter, en leur présence, l'acte d'engagement marqué à l'Article 178 du Statut. L'acte d'engagement sera écrit dans la langue du candidat ; il sera revêtu de la signature de deux témoins choisis par ce dernier, et certifié par le Commandant de compagnie.

Art. 8. La teneur de l'acte d'engagement sera la suivante :—

Je, Soussigné (noms et prénoms), fils de , né à , âgé de (âge approximatif), déclare m'engager à servir pendant deux ans à partir de ce jour dans la gendarmerie de la Roumélie Orientale. Je promets obéis-

sance à mes chefs et fidélité aux lois. En foi de quoi j'ai signé le présent acte d'engagement.

Fait à , le

(Signature de l'engagé volontaire.) (Signature des deux témoins.)

Pour légalisation de la signature de l'engagé volontaire,
Le Capitaine Commandant la compagnie.

Art. 9. Dans les vingt-quatre heures après la signature de leur acte d'engagement, les nouveaux gendarmes seront conduits devant le Juge du canton siégeant en audience publique, pour prêter le serment prescrit à l'Article 1er du Règlement Provisoire de la Gendarmerie. La teneur du serment sera la suivante :—

"Je jure fidélité aux lois de la province ; je jure obéissance à mes chefs ; je jure de remplir avec honneur et fidélité mes devoirs professionnels."

Art. 10. Aussitôt après la prestation de serment les nouveaux engagés sont habillés et armés au magasin de la compagnie, et ils sont ensuite repartis par les soins des Commandants de compagnie entre les sections provisoires, et dirigés immédiatement sur les chefs-lieux de ces sections, pour être mis à la disposition des officiers commandant.

Le procès-verbal de la prestation de serment est établi en double expédition par le Juge du canton ; il est signé par lui ou par son suppléant légal. Une expédition du procès-verbal est envoyée au Commandant de compagnie, qui la conserve dans ses archives ; l'autre reste déposée au greffe du Tribunal.

Art. 11. Les Commandants de compagnie déterminent, à titre provisoire, après accord avec les Préfets, et proportionnellement à l'effectif total fixé pour la compagnie, le nombre des brigades appartenant à chaque section, ainsi que l'effectif provisoire de chacune de ces brigades. Les Commandants de section répartissent, au fur et à mesure de leur arrivée, les nouveaux gendarmes entre les différentes brigades de leur section respective.

Les Commandants de compagnie sont autorisés également, à titre de disposition temporaire, à nommer provisoirement les sous-officiers et brigadiers, dans la limite du nombre fixé à l'Article 3 du Règlement Provisoire de la Gendarmerie.

Art. 12. Il sera rendu compte, dans les huit jours, au Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, des nominations provisoires faites en vertu du dernier paragraphe de l'Article ci-dessus, sous la forme d'états de proposition signés par le Commandant de compagnie et par le Préfet.

Les nominations ne seront définitives qu'après l'envoi de la lettre de service signée du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

Art. 13. A titre de disposition transitoire, et pour la période d'organisation, les officiers nouvellement promus dans la gendarmerie départementale entreront en solde à dater du jour de leur nomination. Les sous-officiers et gendarmes entreront en solde à partir du jour de la signature de l'engagement.

Art. 14. En attendant qu'une traduction officielle, en langue Bulgare, Grecque, et Turque, du Chapitre 13 du Statut et du Règlement Provisoire de la Gendarmerie ait pu être faite, et distribuée aux membres de tout grade de ce corps, il en sera fait une impression spéciale en langue Française, et des exemplaires de cette publication seront mis à la disposition des Commandants de compagnie, en nombre suffisant pour que chaque officier, sous-officier, ou brigadier, puisse en posséder un.

Art. 15. Les Commandants de compagnie, les Commandants provisoires de section, et les Commandants de brigades, devront s'attacher, chacun en ce qui le concerne, à l'application rigoureuse des dispositions du Statut.

Les Commandants de compagnie devront, en particulier, faire usage avec prudence et modération des pouvoirs exceptionnels qui leur sont conférés pour la période d'organisation ; ils s'appliqueront surtout à faire une juste application des Articles 477, 478, 479, du Statut, et devront rendre compte journellement au Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie des dispositions qu'ils auront prises.

Art. 16. Le Général Commandant la milice et la gendarmerie est chargé de l'exécution de la présente Ordonnance.

Le Gouverneur-Général,
(Signé) Prince VOGORIDI.

Pour ampliation :
Le Général Commandant la milice et la Gendarmerie,
(Signé) VITALIS.

No. 368*.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 22.)

(No. 60.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, July* 12, 1879.

I HAVE the honour herewith to forward the first three Protocols (in original) of the meetings of the Asiatic Boundary Commission.

In the event of your Lordship causing these documents to be printed, I should be glad if I could be supplied with five copies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 368*.

Protocole No. 1.—*Séance tenue le* 5 *Mai*, 1879, *au Seraskirat Stamboul.*

Étaient présents :

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Nedjib Pacha,
Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha,
Son Excellence Feyzi Pacha,
M. le Colonel Chéhab Bey.

Pour la Russie—
Son Excellence le Général Stebnitsky,
M. A. Emélianoff.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major Clarke,
M. le Capitaine Gill.

LA séance est ouverte à 1 heure 30 minutes soir.

Son Excellence Nedjib Pacha prend la parole ainsi. Maintenant que la Commission a été reconstituée à cause de la présence du Représentant de Sa Majesté Britannique, on doit procéder en règle et décider quelques questions préliminaires telles que l'élection d'un Président et la nomination des secrétaires. En outre, il croit de son devoir de déclarer que la Commission aura pour tâche d'étudier selon les instructions de leurs Gouvernements respectifs et en conformité au Traité de Berlin le tracé de la nouvelle frontière entre la Russie et la Turquie en Asie Mineure à partir de l'ouest du village de Kara-Ourgan jusqu'à l'ancienne frontière de la Russie, et à proposer un projet de frontière.

Son Excellence le Général Stebnitsky parle en ces termes :—

"Messieurs, j'ai l'honneur de vous proposer de confier à son Excellence Nedjib Pacha la Présidence des travaux de la Commission."

Ces paroles ayant été accueillies par l'assentiment empressé de tous les membres de la Commission, *son Excellence Nedjib Pacha* exprime sa vive reconnissance pour l'honneur qui lui vient d'être faite et il accepte la Présidence.

Son Excellence le Général Stebnitsky propose comme Secrétaire M. A. Emélianoff.

M. le Major Clarke demande aussi la nomination du Capitaine Gill en même qualité.

Ces propositions reçoivent l'assentiment unanime de la Commission.

Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha prend la parole. La première question qu'on a à aborder est celle des pleins pouvoirs. Les Délégués Turcs n'ont pas reçu de leur Gouvernement le pouvoir de fixer définitivement la ligne-frontière ; ils sont tenus seulement à exprimer leurs opinions et à soumettre à l'approbation de leur Gouvernement un projet de frontière.

Son Excellence *Nedjib Pacha* se trouve d'accord sur ce point. Il ajoute en outre que lui, son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha, et son Excellence Feyzi Pasha n'ont pas des voix déliberatives, mais qu'ils sont présents seulement pour exprimer leurs opinions personnelles et que les vrais Commissaires sont M. le Colonel Chétab Bey, son Excellence le Général Stebnitsky, et M. le Major Clarke.

M. *le Major Clarke* entend que la décision finale est reservée aux Gouvernements respectifs, et quoiqu'il soit lui-même muni des pleins pouvoirs, il réserve aussi à son Gouvernement le droit d'accepter ou de rejeter le travail de son Commissaire.

Son Excellence *Général Stebnitsky* est d'accord sur ce point.

M. *le Major Clarke* est d'avis que les opinions et les paroles de chaque membre

doivent être mentionnées dans les Protocoles afin de guider les Gouvernements respectifs dans leurs décisions finales; car selon lui, le procès-verbal ne doit pas être borné à une simple description de la frontière.

Cet avis est partagé de tous.

M. le Major Clarke ayant reçu la permission du Président, donne lecture de la pièce suivante:—

"Excellence, à la première séance, après avoir vu la carte sur laquelle avait été tracée la ligne-frontière soumise par la Commission Russo-Turque à la considération de leurs Gouvernements respectifs, j'ai remarqué que non-seulement le point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan y avait été fixé, mais encore la ligne-frontière y avait été tracée au-delà de Kara-Ourgan. En outre, dans le procès-verbal qui accompagne la dite carte le paragraphe ayant rapport à cette partie de la frontière près de Kara-Ourgan est ainsi conçu.

"'Par la ligne de partage des eaux et des collines qui se dirigent vers le sud (la frontière) aboutit au point (pas *à un* point mais *au* point) indiqué sur la carte à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan, en laissant Bardouz et Yeni-Keui à la Russie.'

"'Sous ces circonstances comme ce point et cette partie de la ligne doivent être déterminés par les Représentants des trois Puissances—Russe, Turque, et Britannique, je me suis trouvé dans la position désagréable de me séparer de mes honorables collègues jusqu'à ce que cette partie de la ligne soit entièrement rayée de la carte. Avant-hier j'ai appris qu'une communication a été faite à notre Ministre par son Excellence Carathéodory Pacha, que la délimitation de la frontière Asiatique s'arrête à Kara-Ourgan."

Peut-être votre Excellence voudra bien y ajouter quelques remarques explicatives.

Son Excellence *Nedjib Pasha* dit en réponse que dans les délibérations précédentes on s'est arrêté à Kara-Ourgan, mais comme chaque Délégué a exprimé son opinion et quelquefois même les membres de la Commission ont tracé des lignes sur la carte, il arrive que la ligne au-delà de Kara-Ourgan (dont vient de parler M. le Major Clarke) a été tracé avec un crayon rouge sur la carte employée par la Commission et soumise à l'approbation du Gouvernement Turc; mais il assure le Commissaire Anglais que cette ligne rouge n'était pas une ligne arrêtée par la Commission. Quant au point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan, il n'était pas déterminé non plus, mais afin de donner une direction quelconque selon laquelle devait se diriger la ligne-frontière, le point en question a été choisi mais pas d'une manière définitive, et que par conséquent il reste un point à fixer.

Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha ajoute que non-seulement on n'a pas fixé le point, mais que même on n'a pas pu le faire. On a seulement choisi le point en question pour diriger la ligne-frontière, et que la Commission peut maintenant commencer l'examen de ce point.

Son Excellence le Général Stebnitsky croit que la Commission pourrait commencer ses travaux.

M. le Major Clarke, tout en exprimant la vive satisfaction que lui ont causé les explications données par leurs Excellences Nedjib et Ali Pachas, dit qu'il ne doute pas qu'elles seront aussi satisfaisantes à son Gouvernement.

Son Excellence Nedjib Pacha, prenant la parole, fait observer que la carte soumise à la Commission a été récemment faite sur une grande échelle et dressée par des topographes habiles. En outre, il exprime l'espoir qu'il sera facile à la Commission de déterminer approximativement la ligne-frontière dans les séances mêmes, et il demande l'indulgence des Commissaires pour leur expliquer le système dont on s'est servi dans la Commission précédente. On a suivi autant que possible le Traité de Berlin, et aux endroits où les indications précises manquaient ou bien n'étaient pas très-explicites, on a suivi le partage des eaux ou bien les cours des rivières; et on a généralement donné la préférence au premier, parce qu'il exprime mieux la division des communes, les propriétés particulières pouvant se trouver souvent sur les deux bords d'une rivière, tandis que cela arrive rarement en suivant les crêtes des montagnes.

Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha est parfaitement d'accord avec son Excellence Nedjib Pacha que les crêtes sont préférables aux cours d'eau comme frontière. Quant à la manière de faire la démarcation sur les lieux, il affirme que dans la délimitation de la Bessarabie, quand le terrain était tout plat, on a creusé généralement un fossé et on a érigé des pyramides sur certains points, et sur les crêtes on a placé des pierres.

M. le Major Clarke exprime son opinion que sans doute il faut déterminer sur les lieux mêmes les emplacements des marques de bornage, mais il croit que c'est plutôt la tâche des Puissances limitrophes de faire ériger les pyramides ou bien de creuser les fossés. Il désire savoir l'opinion de la Commission à cet égard.

Son Excellence le Général Stebnitsky croit que la Commission doit d'abord fixer les places des marques de bornage, et ensuite retourner afin de voir si celles-ci ont été dûment placées.

Tous les membres de la Commission se trouvent d'accord à cet égard avec le Général Stebnitsky.

M. le Major Clarke en abordant la question des cartes dit que malgré l'exactitude des cartes Russes, elles peuvent être sujettes à des erreurs particulières; il observe qu'il y a des endroits où les indications ne sont pas très-claires, et qu'il y en a d'autres pour lesquels selon lui il sera nécessaire de dresser des cartes spéciales sur une plus grande échelle. Il désire savoir en outre si la Commission prendra pour base de ses délibérations la carte présentée par le Commissaire Russe.

Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha exprime son adhésion aux vues du Major Clarke.

M. le Major Clarke croit qu'on puisse accepter la carte Russe comme base générale mais qu'il faudra (comme il vient de le dire) dresser des cartes pour les points les plus importants sur une échelle plus grande.

Les autres Commissaires partagent cette opinion.

M. le Major Clarke désire savoir comment faut-il décider une question quelconque sur les lieux, lorsque les Commissaires ne seront pas d'accord. Sera-t-elle décidée par la majorité ou bien sera-t-elle référée aux Gouvernements respectifs.

Son Excellence le Général Stebnitsky est de l'avis que s'il s'agit d'une grande divergence du tracé fait sur la carte, on doit se référer à la décision des Gouvernements respectifs.

Son Excellence Nedjib Pacha croit que la carte topographique Russe facilitera les décisions à prendre, et que peu de questions restera à être réglées sur les lieux.

Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha fait observer que quoique la carte soit dressée avec une grande exactitude, néanmoins il sera nécessaire de la vérifier. Quant à la question des décisions à prendre, il peut arriver qu'il y ait deux ou trois villages du même nom; en ce cas il croit qu'il sera du devoir des Commissaires de se reporter à la décision de leurs Gouvernements respectifs, mais si la question est de peu d'importance il faut donner aux Commissaires le pouvoir de décider sur les lieux, et il pense que les Protocoles doivent démontrer que ce pouvoir est décerné aux Délégués.

Son Excellence le Général Stebnitsky partage l'opinion de son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha, et croit que, avant toute action sur les lieux, il faut vérifier la carte.

Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha est de l'avis que si les Gouvernements acceptent la ligne-frontière qui sera proposée, les Commissaires doivent avoir le droit de faire des changements de peu d'importance sur les lieux, prenant en considération les intérêts locaux, mais que pour les grandes questions, ils doivent se référer à leurs Gouvernements respectifs.

M. le Major Clarke exprime l'opinion qu'on doit décider par la majorité les questions de détails dans lesquelles les Commissaires ne seront pas d'accord sur les lieux.

Son Excellence le Général Stebnitsky dit qu'il n'y a point d'échelle générale pour reconnaître les grandes questions et petites questions, toute chose pouvant être envisagée sous différents points de vue et recevoir simultanément plusieurs degrés d'importance. Ceci est surtout applicable aux questions de frontière, où les questions de détail même pourraient être appréciées différemment. Pour les raisons qui précèdent, il n'admet pas que les décisions sur les lieux soient basées sur le principe de majorité de voix; il préfère à soumettre toute décision concernant n'importe quelle question de frontière de la compétence de la Commission à l'entente des Délégués, et les divergences aux Gouvernements respectifs.

M. le Major Clarke est au contraire de l'avis qu'elles doivent être décidées par la majorité afin d'éviter les références continuelles aux Gouvernements, et il croit qu'on ne peut pas toujours espérer l'unanimité même dans les questions d'une moindre importance.

Son Excellence le Général Stebnitsky pense qu'il n'y a pas lieu de croire à quelques difficultés qui pourraient empêcher la Commission de poursuivre les travaux avec succès, il est plutôt pour le contraire.

Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha pense qu'il ne sera pas difficile de décider quelles sont les questions d'une importance particulière.

Son Excellence le Général Stebnitsky fait observer qu'il y a seulement deux Commissaires pour une section de la délimitation et qu'il y en a trois pour l'autre, et si la décision est prise à la majorité dans la dernière section il y aura alors deux systèmes pour les deux sections de la même Commission.

M. le Major Clarke dit que la Commission a été reconstituée; que maintenant il

s'agit seulement de la question du travail de la nouvelle Commission, et que les Commissaires pour les deux sections se basent sur différents systèmes; il ajoute que dans la Commission pour la Délimitation de la Serbie on a accepté la décision à la majorité.

Son Excellence le Général Stebnitsky fait remarquer que la Commission pour la Serbie était une Commission Européenne, comme il est dit dans le Protocole du Congrès de Berlin. Quant à la présente Commission, il y est dit qu'il y aura seulement un Délégué Russe, un Délégué Ottoman, et un Délégué Britannique.

M. le Major Clarke est de l'avis que cette Commission aussi est internationale; et qu'elle présente un parallèle à celle de la Serbie, où les décisions sur les questions de détail étaient prises à la majorité.

Son Excellence le Général Stebnitsky prie M. le Président de lire le Protocole No. 18 du Congrès de Berlin, où il est dit qu'il n'y a pas lieu d'envoyer une Commission Européenne pour faire des délimitations de frontière en Asie.

M. le Président donne lecture des termes suivants du Protocole No. 18:—

"Le Comte Schouvaloff fait savoir au Congrès que par suite de différence dans les cartes géographiques de la Vallée d'Alachkerd une entente devait être établie ultérieurement sur place entre des Commissaires Russe et Turc. Lord Salisbury ayant désiré leur associer un Délégué Anglais, le Comte Schouvaloff y a consenti. Lord Salisbury ajoute qu'il n'a d'ailleurs aucune objection contre l'admission de Délégués d'autres Puissances.

"Le Comte Schouvaloff répond qu'il n'y a pas lieu d'envoyer une Commission Européenne pour faire des délimitations de frontière en Asie.

"Aucune observation n'étant présentée au sujet de la délimitation en Asie le Président déclare que l'accord intervenu est accepté par le Congrès."*

M. le Major Clarke regrette que les Commissaires ne sont pas d'accord sur cette question de détail.

Son Excellence le Général Stebnitsky ne peut pas consentir à changer les idées du Congrès de Berlin parce que ce n'est pas une Commission Européenne.

Son Excellence Nedjib Pacha demande s'il est bien entendu que si les Délégués ne peuvent pas tomber d'accord sur les lieux, ils doivent se référer à leurs Gouvernements respectifs.

Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha regrette que les Commissaires ne consentent pas à décider les questions de moindre importance par la majorité.

Son Excellence le Général Stebnitsky fait observer que c'est une question de principe et qu'il ne peut pas y consentir.

M. le Major Clarke ne la considère point comme question de principe mais comme question de détail.

Son Excellence Feyzi Pacha est aussi de l'avis que les questions de peu d'importance doivent être décidées par la majorité.

Son Excellence Nedjib Pacha demande si le Général Stebnitsky aura la complaisance de parler à son Ambassadeur à propos de la question de majorité.

Son Excellence le Général Stebnitsky promet d'en référer à son Ambassadeur, et maintient son opinion par rapport à la question de majorité et se déclare pour le principe d'unanimité.

Son Excellence Nedjib Pacha, tout en remerciant son Excellence le Général Stebnitsky, est de l'avis qu'il serait désirable que les petites questions de détail puissent être résolues par les Commissaires sur les lieux à la majorité sans être référées à leurs Gouvernements pour ne pas les ennuyer à chaque instant par des petites choses.

La séance est levée à 3 heures de l'après-midi.

(Signé) NEDJIB.
ALY.
FEYZY.
M. CHEHAB.
J. STEBNITSKY.
F. C. H. CLARKE.
WILLIAM GILL. } *Secrétaires.*
A. EMÉLIANOFF. }

* Congrès de Berlin, Protocole XVIII.

Inclosure 2 in No. 368*.

Protocole No. 2.—Séance tenue le 19 Mai, 1879, au Seraskierat Stamboul.

Étaient présents:

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Nedjib Pacha,
Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha,
Son Excellence Feyzy Pacha,
M. le Colonel Chéhab Bey.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wériguine,
M. A. Emélianoff.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major Clarke.
M. le Capitaine Gill.

LA Séance est ouverte à 1 heure de l'après-midi.

Le Protocole de la séance précédente est adopté.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wériguine, en qualité de Commissaire-Adjoint du Général Stebnitsky, indisposé, présente ses pouvoirs, lesquels, lecture faite, ont été trouvés en bonne et due forme.

Son Excellence Nedjib Pacha ayant pris la parole, a proposé de commencer les travaux et avant tout de fixer le point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan, avec la participatin des trois Commissaires.

Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha dit qu'il faut selon lui commencer par lire le texte du Traité de Berlin.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wériguine déclare qu'il a à communiquer la réponse au sujet de la majorité dont il a été question dans la dernière séance. Il dit que conformément au désir de son Excellence M. le President, le Général Stebnitsky a soumis à l'appréciation de M. l'Ambassadeur de Russie l'opinion qu'il a eu l'honneur d'exprimer dans la dernière séance sur le mode de décisions de la Commission relativement aux changements de moindre importance dans le tracé de la ligne de frontière ainsi que dans les questions de moindre importance. Son Excellence le Prince Labanoff a exprimé que, d'après l'avis de notre Gouvernement, le principe de majorité dans le cas actuel ne saurait être accepté par le Commissaire Russe.

Une conversation s'engage entre les membres de la Commission au sujet de la majorité, et

Son Excellence Nedjib Pacha déclare qu'en résumé il faut accepter l'unanimité puisque la majorité est rejetée par le Commissaire Russe.

M. le Président propose de commencer par le Traité de Berlin, et donne lecture des termes suivants:—"D'un point à l'ouest près du village de Kara-Ourgan la frontière se dirige sur Mejurgert, continue en ligne directe vers le sommet de la montagne Kessa Dagh, et longe la ligne du partage des eaux entre les affluents de l'Arase au nord et ceux du Mourad Su au sud jusqu'à l'ancienne frontière de la Russie."

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wériguine prend la parole pour présenter à la Commission les observations du Général Stebnitsky relativement à la fixation du point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan. Il lit ce qui suit de la part de M. le Général Stebnitsky:

"Le Protocole 17 du Congrès de Berlin porte que le Prince de Hohenlohe, Président de la Commission de Délimitation près du Congrès a donné lecture de ce qui est ci-après.

"' . . . . Elle (la frontière) suivra cette rivière jusqu'à Bardouz puis se dirigera vers le sud en laissant Bardouz et Yenikoui à la Russie, et rejoindra la ligne fixée par le Traité de San Stéfano à Zevin Kaleh.'

"Le Prince de Bismarck constate que le Congrès sanctionne le résultat des délibérations de la Commission. Il s'ensuit donc," continue le Général Stebnitsky, "que le point de la frontière (de la frontière tracée d'après le Traité de San Stéfano) le plus proche de Zevin, c'est-à-dire à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan dans la même situation, a été aussi maintenu par le Congrès dans la frontière tracée par le Traité de Berlin."

M. le Major Clarke demande si le but de M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wériguine est de questionner le droit du Gouvernement Britannique de participer à la fixation du point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wériguine, en réponse, invoque de nouveau les termes du Protocole 17, et ajoute que selon lui le point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan se trouve déjà établi par le Congrès et qu'il est pour ainsi dire immuable.

M. le Major Clarke prie M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Wériguine de lire jusqu'au bout les opinions de son Excellence le Général Stebnitsky à l'égard du point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wériguine relit le Protocole 17 et dit que selon lui le point en question se trouve déjà établi par le Congrès; que, si l'on devait recommencer sa fixation, on arriverait immanquablement à toucher au tracé qui précède le point et qui a été fait par la Commission Russo-Turque, ce qui évidemment ne saurait être admis.

Sur la demande de *M. le Major Clarke* les membres Ottomans de la Commission montrent comme point final de la frontière entre la Mer Noire et Kara-Ourgan un point sur les hauteurs à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan.*

M. le Major Clarke, tout en maintenant pour son Gouvernement le droit de partager à la fixation du point, dit qu'afin d'accélérer le travail de la Commission il accepte le point choisi par les Commissaires Russes et Ottomans tel qu'il lui à été montré.

Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha croit que comme le Traité porte sur un point "près du village de Kara-Ourgan," naturellement la frontière doit passer près de ce village.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wériguine présente la carte déjà signée par les Commissaires Russes et Ottomans† pour démontrer que le point indiqué par lui est le point choisi par la Commission précédente; il croit que c'est par ce point déjà établi que les travaux des Commissaires doivent commencer.

Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha dit que le point dont parle M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wériguine n'est pas ce que les Commissaires Russes et Ottomans ont déjà choisi, et il croit que c'est par ce point déjà choisi près de Kara-Ourgan qu'on doit commencer les travaux des Commissaires.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Wériguine dit que le point qu'il indique se trouve près de Kara-Ourgan, que ce point se trouve sur la crête bien élevée, et que si l'on l'approchait davantage de Kara-Ourgan on ferait passer dans le territoire Turc les moulins situés sur la rivière qui constituent la propriété des habitants de ce village. Or, il est entendu que les propriétés doivent être conservées aux habitants.

Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha dit que le point près de Kara-Ourgan est aussi élevé, et par conséquent peut être fixé.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wériguine maintient son point.

M. le Major Clarke désire suivre la frontière naturelle et ne pas quitter la crête. Il indique sur la carte le point où les travaux doivent commencer.‡

M. le Colonel Chéhab Bey se déclare pour le point près de Kara-Ourgan, et ajoute qu'autrement on serait obligé de couper la vallée et la rivière.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wériguine répond que pour passer d'une crête sur une autre naturellement on doit couper la vallée.

Son Excellence Nedjib Pacha démande à M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wériguine son opinion sur le point.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wériguine maintient que le point indiqué est le plus élevé et plus propre à servir de frontière; en outre, ce point sauvegarde les intérêts économiques des habitants de Kara-Ourgan.

M. le Major Clarke déclare qu'il ne peut pas admettre aucun tracé de la frontière arrêté par la Commission Russe et Turque au sud de Kara-Ourgan. Le point de départ pour les discussions doit être un point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wériguine insiste sur les intérêts économiques des habitants.

Son Excellence Nedjib Pacha dit que la question des intérêts économiques ne peut pas être un empêchement pour établir une frontière administrative. Il est admis partout que les propriétaires ne sont pas privés de leurs biens lorsque ceux-ci passent dans le territoire d'une autre Puissance, de sorte que les habitants de Kara-Ourgan

* Ce point se trouve à une distance à peu près de 300 sagènes du village.

† Dans cette carte la frontière suit la crête à l'ouest de Yeni-Keui et Abelkart; mais plus loin—sur une autre section de la carte qui n'est pas signée—elle quitte la crête par une ligne courbe, traverse la vallée, et gagne une autre crête au sud-ouest de Kara-Ourgan.

‡ Ce point se trouve à l'intersection de la ligne qui suit la crête à l'ouest de Yeni-Keui et Abelkart avec la parallèle de Kara-Ourgan—un point indiqué sur la carte soumise au Gouvernement Ottoman par ses Commissaires et dont une copie lui a été fournie.

conserveraient toujours leur droit de propriété si même les moulins passaient dans le territoire Turc.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wériguine maintient l'importance des intérêts économiques, et ajoute en même temps que le point indiqué par lui satisfait aussi aux intérêts administratifs, vu que ce point est une crête presque quatre fois plus élevée que le point près de Kara-Ourgan.

Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha pense qu'on ne peut pas gêter une frontière naturelle pour le moulin d'un paysan.

M. le Major Clarke dit qu'il a participé à la délimitation de la Bulgarie et que partout on donnait la préférence aux accidents du terrain, et qu'on n'a pas tenu compte en général des intérêts économiques.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wériguine exprime que dans toutes les Commissions on a tenu compte des propriétés.

Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha fait rappeler qu'ils ont réservé dans le Protocole précédent aux Délégues un paragraphe pour sauvegarder les intérêts locaux, et puis il ajoute qu'il ne peut pas choisir un autre point que celui qu'il a montré.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wériguine dit que sans le consentement de son Excellence le Général Stebnitsky il ne peut pas accepter le point proposé par les Commissaires Anglais et Ottomans. Il référera la question au Général Stebnitsky.

(Signé) NEDJIB.
ALY.
FEYZY.
CHÉHAB.
WERIGUINE.
F. C. H. CLARKE.
WILLIAM GILL, } *Secrétaires.*
EMÉLIANOFF, }

Inclosure 3 in No. 368*.

Protocole No. 3.—Séance tenue le 22 Mai, 1879, au Seraskierat Stamboul.

Étaient presents:

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Nedjib Pacha,
Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha,
Son Excellence Feyzy Pacha,
M. le Colonel Chéhab Bey.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wériguine,
M. A. Emélianoff.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke,
M. le Capitaine Gill.

LA séance est ouverte à 1 heure de l'après-midi.

Le Protocole de la séance précédente est adopté.

Sur le désir de *M. le Président*, *M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wériguine* dit que le Général Stebnitsky l'a chargé de faire part à la Commission relativement à la position du point de frontière à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan de la déclaration suivante:—

"Le point en question a été établi par le Traité de San Stéfano et par conséquent est indiqué sur la carte jointe à ce Traité. Or, il appert de cette carte que ce point se trouve à quelques kilomètres du village de Kara-Ourgan. Dans le Protocole 17 du Congrès de Berlin, le même point de frontière est désigné comme point se trouvant près de Zevin Kaleh. Ainsi qu'il ressort des levées faites sur l'échelle d'une verste dans un pouce, il y a quatre crêtes entre le village Zevin et celui de Kara-Ourgan. La position que les Délégués Russes proposent pour être le point de frontière se trouve sur la troisième crête de Zevin, et sur la seconde de Kara-Ourgan, à 2 kilom. de ce dernier et à 3¼ kilom. de Zevin. Une telle position du point qui doit se trouver à proximité de Zevin et de Kara-Ourgan est, selon l'opinion du Délégué Russe, une proposition bien modérée, et la restreindre encore serait agir en contradiction avec la

position du point de frontière désigné sur la carte de San Stéfano et mentionnée dans le Protocole 27 du Congrès de Berlin. En outre, le point indiqué par le Délégué Russe est une hauteur saillante et peut par conséquent être un point convenable de frontière.

"Je me crois en devoir d'y ajouter que le principal motif qui m'a guidé dans le choix du point de frontière à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan c'était la base admise déjà par la Commission que la frontière, pour les facilités administratives des deux pays limitrophes, doit suivre les hauteurs les plus saillantes et non les petites crêtes et les petites collines, en conservant au possible aux habitants les propriétés et les terrains dont ils jouissent actuellement. Pour faire ressortir que le point en question à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan n'a d'autre portée que celle dont j'ai parlé plus haut, on n'a qu'à consulter la carte; en plus, on peut s'en convaincre sur les lieux, comme j'ai eu l'occasion d'y parvenir personnellement. Mais en admettant le point de frontière sur la colline la plus proche de Kara-Ourgan il en résulterait que ce point se trouverait sur la même plaine ondulée sur laquelle est situé le village lui-même. Donc trop près de Kara-Ourgan et relativement trop loin de Zevin, ce qui serait en opposition avec les arguments basés sur les documents invoqués plus haut."

Pendant la lecture, M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wériguine donne des explications sur les cartes, et ajoute que, d'après le texte du Protocole 17 du Congrès de Berlin, le point indiqué auprès de Zevin Kaleh de la frontière de San Stéfano se trouve justement être le point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan mentionné dans le Traité de Berlin. Ce point, comme il a déjà eu l'honneur de l'exposer dans la séance précédente, forme la pointe de la coudée de la ligne de frontière de San Stéfano mentionnée dans le Protocole 17 que l'on retrouve sur le transparent. Entre ce point et Kara-Ourgan se trouve une vallée nettement indiquée sur la carte Russe de 20 verstes, et qui ne peut être que la vallée à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan indiquée sur les plans topographiques présentés à la Commission. Ce point, conformément au transparent, étant sur la rive droite de la vallée, ne saurait logiquement être transporté sur la rive opposée.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke a l'honneur de faire observer que dans le Traité de Berlin il n'y a aucune mention ni du Traité de San Stéfano, ni de la frontière à Zevin, et que par conséquent il trouve les observations de M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wériguine à ce sujet absolument hors de propos.

Quant à la carte jointe à ce Traité dont M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wériguine a présenté un transparent signé, M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke fait observer qu'elle est dressée sur une petite échelle, et que la ligne-frontière y est indiquée par une bande très-large.

Après avoir mis le transparent en question sur la carte originale (dont il est copie) on s'est aperçu d'abord que le transparent n'est pas conforme.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke fit ensuite observer que le point défini par M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wériguine n'est pas (même sur son transparent) au sud de la parallèle de Kara-Ourgan, et il ne comprend pas comment M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wériguine veut-il maintenant proposer un point au sud de la dite parallèle.

Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha ajoute que l'échelle de la dite carte n'est pas assez grande pour faire ressortir distinctement les distances.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wériguine, en répouse aux observations de M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke, fait remarquer que le Traité n'est autre chose que le résumé des arrangements renfermés dans les Protocoles; par conséquent, en étudiant le Traité il est de toute nécessité de s'en référer aux détails qui sont insérés dans ces Protocoles. Il en résulte donc qu'il n'est jamais hors de propos de s'en référer aux Protocoles lorsque les circonstances l'exigent, et le droit du Délégué Russe ainsi que de tout Délégué de faire appel à des documents d'une portée internationale ne saurait être limité. Quant aux observations du Délégué Britannique par rapport à l'inexactitude du transparent, il les considère comme une appréciation personnelle. Pour ce qui concerne les remarques de M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke sur la position du point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan, il n'a qu'à réitérer les opinions déja émises dans la pièce qu'il a eu l'honneur de produire à l'ouverture de la séance.

Pour ce que M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wériguine a dit au sujet du Protocole 17 du Traité de Berlin,

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke se trouve d'accord avec Messieurs les Commissaires Ottomans qui ont manifesté que c'est leur devoir de se baser sur le Traité de Berlin.

Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha admet que sans doute lorsqu'il y a de l'obscurité dans les termes du Traité, alors on doit se référer aux Protocoles, mais que dans le cas actuel le Traité est parfaitement clair et ne laisse aucun doute au sujet du point de

départ des travaux de la Commission. Il se base plutôt sur le Traité et non sur les Protocoles, qui ne sont d'ailleurs que l'expression des membres du Congrès. Il ajoute que si l'on donne la préférence aux Protocoles on dériverait beaucoup des termes du Traité. En outre, il ne peut pas se faire une idée comment on peut contester le droit du Commissaire Britannique de participer à la délimitation depuis un point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wériguine croit de son devoir de réitérer que les Protocoles renfermant l'exposé des arrangements pris par les Signataires du Traité de Berlin, ainsi que des indications sur le tracé de la frontière Russo-Turque sont selon lui les commentaires inhérentes au Traité. L'extrait du Protocole 17 qu'il a eu l'honneur de citer en est un exemple évident.

En réponse aux observations de M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Wériguine relativement à la position du point au sud-ouest de Kara-Ourgan,

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke est loin de disputer que M. le Commissaire Russe l'a bien expliquée; il désire seulement ajouter que ce point se trouve ouest 27° sud de Kara-Ourgan.

M. le Délégué Russe dit qu'il a été guidé dans le choix du point saillant qu'il indiquait par les considérations que ce point satisferait le mieux aux conditions essentielles d'une bonne frontière, mais quand surgit la question qu'il fallait comprendre l'expression à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan dans un sens tout-à-fait précis, M. le Commisaire Russe indique un autre point saillant précisément à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke croit que le point en question est plutôt ouest 27° sud, et quant à la modération dont a parlé M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wériguine, M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke dit qu'il ne le voit pas parce que:—

1. M. le Commissaire Russe désire violer le Traité de Berlin en se basant sur celui de San Stéfano, et sur le transparent inexact qui l'a accompagné, et en donnant à la frontière une direction de sud-ouest au lieu de celle sur Mejingert.*

2. M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Wériguine veut rejeter le point déjà convenu entre les Commissaires Russes et Ottomans, et en choisir un autre qui ne figure pas sur la frontière déjà arrêtée par les Commissaires Russes et Ottomans, mais qui se trouve sur la frontière déjà rayée. Au contraire, malgré le droit de son Gouvernement à participer à la fixation du point en question, M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke est bien disposé d'accepter comme point final celui arrêté par la Commission Russe et Turque.

3. M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Wériguine désire encore une fois imposer un tracé dont la rayure de la carte a été la condition essentielle de la présence du Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke aux séances.

M. le Délégué Russe voit avec peine que M. le Délégué Britannique confond constamment le Protocole 17 du Congrès de Berlin avec le Traité de San Stéfano, dont il n'a jamais été question dans la séance. C'est le Protocole 17 qui a été lu à la séance, et non le texte du Traité de San Stéfano. Ce qui concerne l'expression dont s'est servi M. le Délégué Britannique, en imputant au Délégué Russe le désir de violer le Traité de Berlin en se basant sur celui de San Stéfano, il la trouve parfaitement arbitraire et absolument hors de propos, ainsi que la remarque faite sur l'inexactitude du transport qui est un document en règle et qui ne saurait être contesté. Dans la première séance, continue M. le Commissaire Russe, à laquelle il a eu l'honneur d'assister, M. le Président avait proposé à l'ouverture de la séance premièrement, et avant tous, de choisir un point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan avec la coopération des trois Délégués.

Par conséquent il a cru de son devoir, indépendamment du droit formel de chacun des Délégués dans le choix de ce point, d'exposer tous les arguments (basés sur des documents) relatifs à sa position et à celle de la partie de frontière y adhérente. M. le Délégué Russe exprime que c'est son droit d'émettre librement ses opinions aussi bien sur le point de départ que sur le tracé ultérieur de la frontière; il pense que le même droit sans doute appartient également aux autres Délégués, et il ne reconnaît pas la possibilité d'imposer ses opinions aux autres Délégués.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke, en revenant à ce que M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wériguine a avancé à propos d'une vallée entre la frontière de San Stéfano et Kara-Ourgan, observe avec regret que M. le Commissaire Russe revient toujours au Traité de San Stéfano et au Protocole 17, en laissant de côté le Traité de Berlin qui est d'ailleurs parfaitement claire et ne demande aucune explication à ce sujet.

M. le Délégué Russe est obligé de faire observer que pendant la séance il n'a

* D'un point à l'ouest près du village de Kara-Ourgan, la frontière se dirige sur Mejingert.—Traité de Berlin, Article LVIII.

allégué que le Protocole 17 du Congrès de Berlin que M. le Délégué Britannique se plaît constamment de confondre avec le Traité de San Stéfano.

M. le Commissaire Britannique ne peut pas s'abstenir de faire observer que le point déjà choisi par les Commissaires Russes et Ottomans (mais que maintenant le Commissaire Russe désire rejeter) accomplit toutes les conditions exigées par le Traité de Berlin. De plus, ce point se trouve sur le partage de deux cours d'eau et sur les hauteurs qui se dirigent vers le sud, et selon la carte Russe, sur un point assez saillant. La frontière qui passe ainsi est la continuation naturelle de la frontière déjà tracée sur le partage des susdits cours d'eau, tandis que celle indiquée par M. le Commissaire Russe descend sans aucune raison évidente des hauteurs et traverse une vallée dans une direction approximativement sud-ouest pour gagner une autre hauteur.

M. le Commissaire Russe fait observer que la direction de la partie de la frontière qu'il indique est basée sur la nécessité de respecter les intérêts économiques du village de Kara-Ourgan, lesquels, selon lui, ne sauraient être satisfaits qu'à la condition de cette seule direction de la frontière, et engage Messieurs les Délégués à s'en convaincre sur les lieux.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke avance qu'en faisant une comparaison entre les deux copies signées de la carte* on s'aperçoit que celle entre les mains du Commissaire Russe n'est pas d'accord avec celle des Commissaires Ottomans, et leurs Excellences Nedjib Pacha et Ali Nizami Pacha affirment que dans le tracé de cette partie de la frontière† ils n'ont jamais quitté la crête, et qu'ils pensent que leur copie est la plus exacte.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wériguine dit que les deux cartes sont également signées par MM. les Commissaires Russes et Ottomans, et par conséquent d'une valeur documentale identique.

Son Excellence Nedjib Pacha fait rappeler que dans les Protocoles précédents les Commissaires ont déjà tenu compte des intérêts économiques; il ajoute en outre que selon le "droit des gens" tout le monde est libre d'aller dans un pays étranger même pour visiter ses propres moulins; que lorsqu'un pays passe à la possession d'une autre Puissance les villageois ne sont pas dépourvus de leurs propriétés.

Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha fait remarquer qu'on ne doit pas gâter une frontière naturelle pour le moulin d'un paysan.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke est loin de contester l'affirmation de son Excellence le Général Stolnitsky que le point qu'il désire choisir sera convenable sous un point de vue économique, et il n'aurait jamais songé à chercher des preuves sur la carte pour démontrer le contraire. Mais puisque M. le Commissaire Russe fait appel à la carte, M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke ne peut pas s'empêcher de démontrer que les moulins sont indiqués partout ailleurs sur la dite carte, tandis qu'il n'y a aucun signe de moulin dans l'endroit mentionné par son Excellence le Général Stolnitsky.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wériguine affirme que selon les informations récueillies par le Général Stolnitsky ces terrains sont des propriétés des habitants de Kara-Ourgan, et la preuve en est qu'ils sont à proximité de ce même village.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke dit que quant à la plaine ondulée dont a parlé le Commissaire Russe, il démontre que d'après la carte Russe il y a entre les deux cours d'eau une hauteur assez saillante. En passant à Zevin, et aux arguments basés sur les documents invoqués par le Commissaire Russe, M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke se trouve parfaitement d'accord avec les Délégués Ottomans en réitérant qu'il n'a pas le droit de mépriser le Traité de Berlin pour se réfugier dans celui de San Stéfano et dans les Protocoles du Congrès de Berlin.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wériguine ne peut pas s'empêcher d'exprimer son étonnement de voir, encore une fois, confondre le Traité de San Stéfano avec les Protocoles du Congrès de Berlin—deux choses trop distinctes pour être confondues. Ensuite M. le Commissaire Russe répète les opinions du Général Stolnitsky, et mu par un esprit de conciliation, propose d'admettre le point indiqué par les Commissaires à condition que les intérêts économiques du village de Kara-Ourgan soient sauvegardés, en leur conservant les propriétés qui sont sur la rivière.

M. le Président fait observer qu'une nouvelle Commission ayant été nommée, pour être en règle, il a fallu commencer par la fixation d'un point de départ sans y attacher aucune condition.

Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha et M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke affirment qu'en fixant le point de départ ils ne peuvent pas accepter les conditions que M. le Commissaire Russe veut imposer, et ils répètent que selon le Traité de Berlin ce point doit être à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan; qu'ils ne trouvent pas qu'ils ont le droit de s'écarter du Traité comme désire le faire M. le Commissaire Russe en choisissant un point au sud-ouest.

* C'est-à-dire la carte de la frontière jusqu'au 40° 15' 0" de latitude (Kara-Ourgan est à peu près de latitude 40° 14' 50").

† C'est-à-dire la portion qui se trouve entre 40° 15' 0" et 40° 16' 0" de latitude.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wériguine, voyant que l'on n'arrivait à aucune conclusion, propose dans l'intérêt de faire avancer les travaux, de remettre le choix du point sur les lieux, et de continuer présentement à étudier le tracé ultérieur de la frontière.

Son Excellence Nedjib Pacha dit qu'il ne comprend pas comment on peut espérer à tomber d'accord sur les lieux si l'on ne peut pas le faire à présent.

Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha démontre que le Commissaire Britannique a le droit de participer à la délimitation depuis un point à l'ouest près de Kara-Ourgan. Si au contraire le point du Lieutenant-Colonel Wériguine est accepté comme point de départ, alors la frontière sera tracée au-delà du point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan sans la participation du Commissaire Britannique.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke regrette que M. le Commissaire Russe veut maintenant rejeter un point auquel il avait préalablement consenti, ou bien de tâcher à faire prévaloir une frontière déjà rayée de la carte avec le consentement du Commissaire Russe.

M. le Commissaire Russe croit qu'en émettant ses opinions dans la Commission actuelle sur la direction de la frontière, il ne les a jamais rattachées à un tracé qui, d'après la déclaration du Délégué Britannique lui-même, n'existe pas. Il suppose en outre que la Commission étant un champ de libre discussion chacun des Délégués selon les documents peut librement et indépendamment projeter un tracé. Ainsi, en cas de non-unanimité chacun des Délégués pourrait indiquer son projet de tracé sur la carte, et ces projets seraient alors soumis à l'appréciation des autorités compétentes.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke donne ensuite lecture de la pièce suivante:—

"M. le Président,

"Excellence, il sera à la connaissance des membres de la Commission qu'à la première séance préliminaire du 21 Avril je me trouvai dans la nécessité de me séparer de mes collègues jusqu'à ce que la frontière tracée au-delà de Kara-Ourgan sans ma participation eut été rayée. A la première séance formelle du 5 Mai, ayant reçu l'autorisation de mon Ambassadeur après qu'une communication avait été faite à lui par le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté le Sultan, je m'y suis rendu. Après l'ouverture de la séance son Excellence Nedjib Pasha, parlant au nom des membres de la Commission, comme leur Président, m'assura que la frontière au-delà de Kara-Ourgan avait été rayée de la carte, et que le point à l'ouest du dit village restait à être fixé par les trois Commissaires Russe, Ottoman, et Britannique.

"Trouvant ces assurances satisfaisantes je pris part à cette séance. Mais en dépit de cette assurance à la seconde séance le 19 Mai, le Général Stolnitsky étant absent, par la bouche de son adjoint fâchait de soulever encore une fois la question du droit du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique de participer dans la fixation du point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan.

"Afin d'accélérer le travail de la Commission qui, jusqu'à présent, a été très en retard d'une cause ou d'autre, et animé d'un esprit conciliateur, je tâchais de me mettre d'accord dès le premier moment avec mes collègues, et je m'étais disposé (sans toutefois renoncer au droit du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique de participer à la fixation du point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan) d'accepter un point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan qui se trouve sur la frontière marquée sur une carte (copie de celle présentée à la Sublime Porte) placée à ma disposition par la Commission.

"Malgré cette disposition de ma part, d'après les paroles du Commissaire Adjoint Russe, il n'acceptait pas sans condition le point que j'ai démontré, mais désirait mêler avec ce point un autre au sud-ouest de Kara-Ourgan; un point en effet sur la frontière qui a été déjà rayée de la carte, selon la déclaration de son Excellence le Président de la Commission.

"Il y a deux questions sur lesquelles je désire avoir des réponses de M. le Commissaire Russe."

Ensuite M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke passe à M. le Président l'une des questions par écrit.

Son Excellence Nedjib Pacha lit ce qui suit:—

"Si M. le Commissaire Russe questionne le droit du Gouvernement Britannique de participer à la fixation du point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan ?"

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wériguine répond qu'il ne saurait contester le droit du Gouvernement Britannique de participer à la fixation du point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan, attendu qu'il ne connaît pas les instructions dont M. le Commissaire Britannique est muni. Mais ce qu'il saurait dire c'est que d'après la lettre de son Excellence Mr. Malet, ci-devant Ministre Plénipotentiaire de Sa Majesté Britannique près de Sa Majesté le Sultan, adressée à son Excellence M. l'Ambassadeur de Russie, le Prince Labanoff, M. le Commissaire Britannique a retiré son exigence de participer à la fixation du point en question. Ensuite M. le Commissaire passe l'original à son Excellence Nedjib Pacha. M. le Président lit la lettre conçue en ces termes :

Reçu le $\frac{17}{29}$ Avril, 1879, Mardi.*

"Cher Prince,

"Major Clarke retire son exigence à participer à la fixation du point près de Kara-Ourgan. Il se présentera à la Commission aussitôt que j'aurai reçu avis que le tracé au-delà de ce point a été rayé.

Votre très-dévoué,
(Signé) "EDWARD B. MALET.

"Son Excellence M. le Prince Labanoff."

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke maintient son droit de participer à la fixation du point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan, et présente à M. le Président la seconde question par écrit.

Son Excellence Nedjib Pacha lit :—

"Si M. le Commissaire Russe répudie que le point indiqué par moi à la dernière séance, et affirmé par les Délégués Ottomans d'être un point sur la frontière tracée par la Commission Russo-Turque, est un point sur la dite frontière ?"

M. le Délégué Russe croit que le point indiqué par M. le Commissaire Britannique n'est pas le point qui avait été l'objet des délibérations de la Commission Russo-Turque. Finalement il propose de nouveau, pour ne pas arrêter les travaux ultérieurs du tracé à projeter, de réserver la question du point aux Délégués de Délimitation pour être tranchée sur les lieux.

Son Excellence Nedjib Pacha dit qu'il serait désirable de fixer le point maintenant, et ensuite demande à M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wériguine s'il admet le point dont a parlé M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke comme étant un point sur la frontière déjà tracée par la Commission Russo-Turque. C'est cela, ajoute son Excellence, que M. le Commissaire Britannique voudrait savoir.

M. le Commissaire Russe répond qu'il n'est pas tenu à accepter le point proposé par M. le Délégué Britannique, d'autant plus que conformément à la lettre qu'il a eu l'honneur de produire à la Commission, il s'ensuit que M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke a retiré son exigence à participer à la fixation du point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke dit que c'est avec le plus profond regret que pour les mêmes raisons que d'autrefois il est de son devoir de se séparer encore une fois de ses collègues.

La séance est levée à quatre heures et demie.

(Signé) NEDJIB.
ALY.
FEYZY.
CHEHAB.
WERIGUINE.
F. C. H. CLARKE.
A. EMÉLIANOFF, } *Secrétaires.*
WILLIAM GILL, }

* C'est la date de la réception de la lettre.

No. 369.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July 22.*)

(No. 434.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 17, 1879.*

COUNT ANDRASSY having told me that he always liked to be made acquainted with the opinion of Her Majesty's Consuls upon the condition of things in the provinces under Austrian occupation, I gave Baron Calice confidentially a copy of Mr. Freeman's despatch to your Lordship of the 1st instant, which he had sent to me under flying seal.

I especially invited his attention to Mr. Freeman's remarks upon the long-continued occupation of mosques as military magazines or store-houses, and to the hardship which the adoption of the Austrian system of billeting soldiers in private houses must inflict upon a Mussulman population, whose habits of keeping their families secluded must be grievously wounded by it.

I had not very long ago spoken on this subject to Count Andrassy, and said that if the system was adopted in Bosnia it would probably lead to very many of the Mussulmans leaving the country.

His Excellency at once recognized the necessity of not running counter to the feelings of the people in that matter, and said that suitable barrack accommodation must be made as soon as possible; but it is probable that many of the military authorities are more indifferent on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 370.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July 22.*)

(No. 436. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 17, 1879.*

THE Russian Chargé d'Affaires has communicated to Baron Orczy a telegram from his Government on the question of the Bulgarian frontier near Silistria, proposing that a new Commission should proceed to the spot and select a place where a bridge over the Danube could be placed to the east of Silistria.

It is explained that the word Silistria shall be taken as comprising the lands properly belonging to the town, so that the duty of the new Commission would be to find a position for a bridge lower down the river than that recommended by the Commission last year, which would be entirely set aside.

In the event of the Commission not being unanimous in their opinion, it is proposed that the matter should be referred to the Cabinets for solution, but it is not intimated that the decision of a majority of them shall be final, and, as far as I can see, the proposal leaves the question very much where it stood last year.

Baron Orczy mentioned to me confidentially that, in urging the immediate acceptance of this suggestion on the Austrian Government, the Russian Chargé d'Affaires had used a rather strange argument by representing the importance of having the question settled before the Russian occupation comes to an end, as the presence of the Russian troops acts as a salutary check upon the Roumanians, who, if the frontier were not definitively fixed before they left, might be tempted to occupy the line that the Commissioners, with the exception of the Russian, had recommended last year.

Count Andrassy's opinion upon this communication, which has been forwarded to him at Ischl, has not yet been received.

I have, &c
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 371.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22.)

(No 438.)
Vienna, July 17. 1879.

My Lord,

BARON ORCZY tells me that, in consequence of the communication received from the Porte respecting the Bulgarian fortresses, the Austrian Agent and Consul-General had been instructed to ascertain what had been done towards their demolition, and to report upon their actual condition.

M. Balatchano, the Roumanian Minister, has also spoken to me on the subject, which he says is one that greatly interests his Government.

I said that it appeared, from the answers given in Parliament to questions asked respecting those fortresses, that Her Majesty's Government had information which led them to believe that considerable progress had been made in their demolition, and more especially so as regards Rustchuk.

He replied that he believed Her Majesty's Government to be misinformed if they supposed more to have been done than the removal of stone-work, which was a comparatively immaterial feature in the defences, and that even this was confined to Rustchuk, the works at Widdin and Silistria being still almost, if not entirely, untouched.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 372.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 440.)
Vienna, July 17, 1879.

My Lord,

THE Italian Chargé d'Affaires has been instructed to invite the Austrian Government to agree that the Montenegrin Frontier Delimitation Commission should resume its operations on the understanding that only the positions respecting which there is no dispute should be definitively fixed, leaving the intermediate and disputed line recommended by the majority of the Commissioners to be provisionally marked out, subject to the protest or remarks of the minority.

M. Curtopassi said that the proposal had already received the assent both of the Porte and Montenegro, as well as that of the different Cabinets, with the exception of those of Her Majesty, of Austria, and of Germany.

Upon learning that your Lordship had approved of the mode proposed by Count Andrassy for proceeding upon the Montenegrin frontier question, Count Zichy was instructed to recommend it to the Porte, but Baron Orczy says that this need not at all prevent the adoption of the Italian suggestion, which the Austrian Government will make no difficulty in agreeing to.

I said that as, according to the report of Her Majesty's Commissioners, nearly the whole frontier was disputed, the adoption of the proposal would lead but a very short way towards a solution of the difficulty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 373.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 441.)
Vienna, July 18, 1879.

My Lord,

M. BALATCHANO spoke to me yesterday about the occupation of the Arab Tahia fort at Silistria by the Bulgarian militia, which he represented as having produced some irritation in Roumania. The occupation of that position by the Roumanian troops last year, before the frontier had been finally fixed, was regarded by the Russians as an affront, and upon their being withdrawn, the latter took their place; but this, he said, afforded no pretext for handing it over to the Bulgarians, as had now been done.

In speaking of the evacuation of the Russians, M. Balatchano observed that the impression of there now being none remaining in Roumania required some qualification, as they had not yet all left the Dobrudscha, which was an integral part of the Principality. I said that your Lordship, in the remarks to which he referred, had manifestly alluded to the Roumania north of the Danube.

I asked what his Government—which had some interest in knowing—believed to have been the Russian force south of the Danube during the period when it should, under the Treaty, have been limited to 50,000 men. He said that it was confidently supposed not to have been less than 200,000; but this is considerably in excess of the numbers given from other well-informed quarters, as the Austrian Government consider that the total occupying force was about 150,000, which exactly coincides with the strength at which Baker Pasha told me that he reckoned it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 374.

Sir A. Kemball to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 22.)

My Lord,
79, Queen's Gate, July 22, 1879.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's letter, dated yesterday, with inclosure relating to the delimitation of the Turco-Persian frontier at Khotour.

The Porte's desire "to obtain, for the use of the Commission charged under Article LX of the Treaty of Berlin to determine the extent of territory which is to be ceded with Khotour, copies of the maps and of a Report drawn up by the Anglo-Russian Commission of which you were a member," is based on an erroneous assumption dating from the deliberations of the Congress at Berlin.

I am myself unaware of the existence of any such Report.

General Tzelenoi, in his communications with Colonel Clarke, fully confirms the facts of the case as before represented by me.

If I might be allowed to offer a suggestion, I would observe that it would probably enlighten all parties concerned and obviate the occasion of further references if Colonel Clarke were furnished with copies of my letters to your Lordship's address, dated respectively the 28th October and the 6th November of last year, and also copies of General Sir Fenwick (then Colonel) Williams' reports from the spot relating to the expropriation of Khotour.

It will be seen that the Seraskier's reference to "l'étendu du territoire de Khotour qui doit être cédé à la Perse d'après le Traité, et comme l'Article LX du Traité de Berlin dit, 'céder à la Perse la ville et le district de Khotour ainsi que l'avait déterminé la Commission Mixte chargée de la délimitation des frontières Turco-Persanes au sein de laquelle se trouvaient des Délégués Anglais et Russe,'" is a *mauvaise plaisanterie* attributable to the course of negotiations at Berlin for the modification of the Treaty of San Stefano.

The concluding portion of the Seraskier's communication to the Grand Vizier is no doubt well-founded, but has relation to a state of things with which the Commission for the delimitation of the Turco-Persian frontier had no concern.

I may here mention that I yesterday received a communication (unofficial) from the British Embassy at Constantinople, which inclosed a Memorandum from the Porte asking for the restitution of the official maps handed by the Porte to the second Commission sitting at Constantinople, of which I was a member. These maps, I have replied, should be found sealed up (with similar official maps handed to the Commission by the Persian Ambassador at Constantinople) in the press which stood in the room of the British Embassy, in which the Joint Commission worked. *Vide* also my letter (unofficial) of last year to Mr. Layard (forwarding an inventory of the maps so deposited), of which a copy was retained at the Foreign Office.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. R. KEMBALL.

No. 375.

Roumanian Proposals.—(Communicated by Baron von den Brincken, July 22.)

SUPPRESSION de l'Article 7 de la Constitution Roumaine.
Emancipation immédiate des Juifs qui appartiennent aux catégories suivantes :—

1. Ceux qui ont servi sous les drapeaux.
2. Ceux qui, élevés dans les écoles Roumaines, ont obtenu des diplômes.
3. Ceux qui ont fondé un établissement industriel.
4. Ceux qui ont fait des donations aux établissements de bienfaisance ou autres.
5. Ceux qui ont écrit ou traduit un ouvrage en langue Roumaine.

Les autres auraient, comme tous les étrangers, accès à la naturalisation.

Les nationaux des Puissances seraient traités, sans distinction de croyances religieuses, sur un pied de parfaite égalité. Le droit d'acquérir des propriétés rurales serait rattaché aux droits politiques. Il ne pourra être exercé que par ceux qui seront actuellement émancipés ou qui obtiendront la naturalisation.

Cette disposition n'atteindrait pas les droits acquis.

No. 376.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22.)

Sophia, July 20, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)
I HAVE arrived here to-day, and shall apply to present my credentials to-morrow. The Russian, Austrian, and German have already presented theirs.

No. 377.

Major Gordon to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22.)

Filibé, July 21, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)
RECEIVED from the Ambassador Cypher O.
Work of Commission in the field completed. Return to Constantinople 24th instant.

No. 378.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22, 7·50 A.M.)

Scutari, July 21, 1879, 6 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
I HAVE been asked by our Boundary Commissioner to telegraph following :—

"Commission has to-day decided to recommence work on Friday next, starting from Valkruci, and putting permanent boundary marks only where both Turks and Montenegrins are agreed.

"Where they are not agreed, the boundary as decided by the majority will be marked out on the topographical sketches made for that purpose, and which will include the alternative frontiers proposed by either or both the interested parties.

"No temporary boundary marks are to be placed.

(Signed) "SALB."

No. 379.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22.)

Scutari, July 21, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)
WITH reference to my despatch No. 75 of the 4th May last, I have now been informed by the Montenegrin Government that the Prince has appointed M. Radonich

as his Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Sultan, and that he will start for his post in the course of a few days.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 380.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22, 11·15 A.M.)

(No. 27.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, July 22, 1879, 6·30 A.M.*

HER Majesty's Commissioner telegraphs as following yesterday :—

"Demarcation finished to Kanlug yesterday. Expect to arrive at Nisch 25th.'

"Prepolac line has been amended unanimously according to Ottoman Commissioner's proposal, and will be marked on the ground Wednesday, 23rd, but subject to reference to Turkish, Austrian, and Servian Governments by their respective Commissioners."

(Above communicated to Constantinople and Vienna.)

No. 381.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22, 1 P.M.)

(No. 570.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 22, 1879, 11·5 A.M.*

RUSSIAN Ambassador has complained to me that, owing to the refusal of Colonel Clarke to attend the meetings of the Asiatic Delimitation Commission, its work is suspended. He said that his Government could not allow this state of things to continue, and the frontier to remain unsettled. It was about to give orders to Russian troops to advance to turn the Turks, and to take possession of frontier-line which suited Russia. He had warned Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, and the Porte might cry out as it liked when thing had been done.

I told Russian Ambassador that I had no power to [?] give [group omitted] Colonel Clarke any instructions, and could only refer matter to you.

No. 382.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22.)

No. 28.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, July 21, 1879.*

MR. CALVERT, who returned yesterday from Batak, informs me that Ahmed Aga, of Bartyn, the destroyer of Batak, has returned to his native district in the Rhodope, and that it is commonly alleged by Pomak peasantry that he will shortly be appointed Sub-Governor of Bartyn. Metto Beetush, who was also condemned to death and subsequently to perpetual exile by the Turkish Commission at Philippopolis, has likewise returned to Rhodope.

Ahmed Aga recently accompanied the Boundary Commission as a guide, having been introduced to European members by the Turkish Delegate. The European Delegates were naturally unaware of his antecedents, otherwise they could never have consented to use his services.

The fact of Ahmed Aga's release must soon become known, and its publication can hardly fail to prove highly injurious to the Porte.

(Sent to Embassy.)

No. 383.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 147.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 22, 1879, 4·10 P.M.*

THE following figures have been received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople:—

[See No. 381.]

I have to instruct your Excellency to ask M. de Giers what this means.

No. 384.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22, 4·30 P.M.)

(No. 46.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, July 22, 1879, 3·55 P.M.*

ROUMANIAN Minister of Finance is in favour of acceptance of principle laid down in XLIVth Article of Berlin Treaty, and of the publication of the law concurrently with the acceptance of, stating categories of Jews who would receive immediate emancipation, and those whose emancipation would be gradual. He tells me that Russia is doing her utmost to oppose all plans for emancipation, though she is careful to avoid making any public manifestation of disapprobation.

Minister of Finance would be ready to overlook personal demands, and would join proposed coalition with Government if the members would agree to his views respecting the acceptance of the principle of religious liberty.

He says that purchase-money of railways will amount to about three hundred [group wrong] four hundred million francs, as stated by me in my telegram No. 45, on the authority of the Resident Roumanian Agent here.

The difficulty connected with the transfer from Berlin to Bucharest of railway direction still unsettled.

No. 385.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 101.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 22, 1879, 5 P.M.*

RUSSIAN Chargé d'Affaires has asked me for verbal reply to Circular. I have told him that I thought any new arrangements not accepting principle of vote by majority were a waste of time; that I could not accept principle that the frontier was to be outside "banlieue" of Silistria; that if other Powers sent their Delegates to re-examine question on the spot I had no objection to General Hamley's doing the same, but that I could not hold out hope of his forming an opinion different from that of Colonel Home.

No. 386.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke.

(No. 7.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 22, 1879, 5·5 P.M.*

YOU had better report to the Ambassador how matters stand and what you are doing.

No. 387.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 175.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 22, 1879, 5·15 P.M.*

YOURS No. 570. The language used at St. Petersburgh is of a most conciliatory character, and, therefore, I think Russian Ambassador at Constantinople must have exceeded his instructions.

I have repeated your telegram to Lord Dufferin. He has lately informed me that they know so little of the case that he thinks it must be settled at Constantinople.

No. 388.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 953.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 22, 1879.*

YOUR Excellency will have learnt from my telegram No. 174 of this day's date that, in the course of a conversation which I have had with the Italian Ambassador at this Court, his Excellency stated that he believed that an understanding exists between M. Fournier and Khaireddin Pasha, by which the latter, on ceasing to be Grand Vizier, is to succeed the present Bey of Tunis, who will be deposed on account of the unsatisfactory state of the finances of that country.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 389.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 955.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 22, 1879.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 570 of this day's date, reporting to me the threatening language which the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople has used with regard to the action which his Excellency states will be taken by the Russian Government, unless the difficulty which has arisen in the Commission for the delimitation of the Asiatic boundary is speedily settled. In reply, I have informed your Excellency that the conciliatory nature of the language which has been held by Russian authorities to Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh leads me to believe that Prince Lobanoff must have exceeded his instructions.

I have, however, caused your telegram to be repeated to Lord Dufferin, with instructions to request M. de Giers to give an explanation of the Prince's language. His Excellency has lately informed me that so little is known at St. Petersburgh of the merits of the question at issue that he is of opinion that it will be necessary to settle the matter at Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 390.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 396.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, July 22, 1879.*

I HAVE this day acquainted your Excellency in my telegram No. 147 with the threatening language held by the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople with regard to the action which his Government intend to take in the event of the difference which has arisen in the Commission for the delimitation of the Asiatic frontier not being settled without further delay.

Your Excellency will express to M. de Giers the surprise with which Her

Majesty's Government have learnt this intelligence, and request from him an explanation of Prince Labanoff's language.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 391.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke.

(No. 53.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 22, 1879.*

I HAVE instructed you in my telegram No. 7 of this day's date to keep Sir H. Layard informed of the position of affairs with regard to the question at issue in the Commission for the delimitation of the Asiatic frontier, and to report to his Excellency your own action in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 392.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 23.)

(No. 33. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, July 8, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a letter which I have received from Colonel Synge respecting the destruction of a band of Albanian brigands in the district of Caraferia.

Colonel Synge states that the force of Kirserdars which has been employed in the suppression of brigandage in that district is being withdrawn as useless.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 392.

Colonel Synge to Consul-General Blunt.

Caraferia, July 5, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that on the 28th ultimo a serious encounter took place in this district, on the mountain "Shell" above Niausta, between the troops and a band of brigands.

His Excellency the Pasha Commanding having received information of the whereabouts of a band of Albanian brigands, sent a force of troops against them; and not until the brigands' ammunition was exhausted, and the troops got to close quarters, were they able to master them, when they killed fifteen, captured two prisoners, and wounded several others, the troops also losing several killed and wounded. This band, some seventy strong, had only recently appeared in the district, and consisted of Albanians, many being deserters, and all armed with superior weapons. The band was divided at the time of attack, about forty taking part in the combat.

It is worthy of remark that whilst, in the case of a Mussulman band of brigands, accurate information is immediately furnished to the authorities, no information can be obtained from the villagers concerning the Christian bands who roam the district.

The force of Kirserdars which for the last year has been employed in the suppression of brigandage is being withdrawn as useless.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. SYNGE.

No. 393.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 23.)

(No. 35. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, July 14, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Sir Henry Layard relative to the steps taken by Suleiman Pasha for the occupation of Djuma.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 393.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, July 14, 1879.*

WITH reference to my telegram of the 9th instant, announcing to your Excellency the occupation of Djuma by the Turkish troops under the orders of Suleiman Pasha, I have the honour to report my having been subsequently informed by the Commander-in-chief, Safvet Pasha, that on the 8th instant Suleiman Pasha arrived before Djuma, and encamped his troops, consisting of four battalions of infantry, in its immediate vicinity, and there waited for the arrival of the European Commission appointed for the demarcation of the Bulgarian frontier, in order to occupy the place in a formal and regular manner.

A subsequent despatch received to-day by the Commander-in-chief conveyed the further information which I telegraphed to your Excellency this afternoon, viz., that Djuma was occupied yesterday by Suleiman Pasha in presence of the European Commission, and that, although Suleiman Pasha encountered no armed opposition, the town was set fire to, and was abandoned by its Bulgarian inhabitants before it was occupied by the Ottoman troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 394.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 23.)

(No. 36. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, July 14, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship my having heard from a reliable source that considerable reinforcements are to be sent to Thessaly.

The division of troops, consisting of fifteen battalions of infantry, under the command of Salih Zeki Pasha, whose head-quarters are at Kozana, has received orders to prepare to march to Larissa, and will be replaced by ten battalions of infantry from the army in the Vilayet of Cossova.

One battalion of infantry, 705 men strong, arrived here this morning by steamer from Constantinople, and will leave to-morrow for Monastir.

I have reported the above information to Sir Henry Layard.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 395.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 23.)

(No. 37. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, July 14, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of my despatch of this date to Sir Henry Layard reporting the recall of the Mufti of Tashlidja to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 395.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Salonica, July 14, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the Mufti of Tashlidja, Mehmed Effendi, who took a leading part in the resistance offered to the Austrian occupation of Bosnia, and who subsequently joined the Albanian League, arrived at Salonica the day before yesterday, and will leave to-morrow for Constantinople, where he has been summoned by the Porte.

The removal of the Mufti from North Albania is ascribed to the strong remonstrances addressed by the Cabinet of Vienna to the Porte against the agitation he is alleged to have encouraged in the district of Novi-Bazaar.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 396.

Sir A. Kemball to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 23.)

79, *Queen's Gate, July* 22, 1879.

My Lord,

I APPREHEND, with reference to my letter of to-day, that an omission may have been inadvertently made in the 3rd paragraph.

Speaking of the Porte's desire "to obtain, for the use of the Commission charged under Article LX of the Treaty of Berlin to determine the extent of territory which is to be ceded to Persia with Khotour, copies of the maps and of a Report said to have been drawn up by the Anglo-Russian Commission, of which you were a member," I observe that "I am myself unaware of the existence of such a Report."

I should have added—The Seraskier is quoting the Treaty of Berlin as elucidated by the observations of the several Plenipotentiaries, and makes no allusion to any Commission of which I was a member.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. B. KEMBALL.

No. 397.

Caratheodory Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha July 23.)

Constantinople, 22 *Juillet,* 1879.

(Télégraphique.)

LA Sublime Porte approuve le langage que votre Excellence a tenu à Lord Salisbury. Nous acceptons le principe de la majorité des voix pour toutes les questions, excepté celles qui ont été traitées dans le Congrès de Berlin, ou qui sont explicitement décidées par le Traité, et que nous considérons comme fondamentales. Les questions de Goritza-Topal et de Clémenti sont expressément de cette dernière catégorie.

No. 398.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 23, 11 A.M.)

Bucharest, July 23, 1879, 7 A.M.

(No. 1.)

(Telegraphic.)

NEW Ministry composed of mixed political elements formed under former Prime Minister, and pledged to solve Jewish difficulty satisfactorily.

List of new Cabinet will appear to-day, and the Chambers will be adjourned for probably one month.

It would appear desirable that Roumania should be informed, through Austria, that the Powers would see with [? displeasure]* any further extension of this delay deferring the final settlement of this question.

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* Group apparently omitted.

No. 399.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 23, 5 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, July* 23, 1879, 12·30 P.M.

THE Chamber met on the 17th instant. The Government finding themselves in a minority on the question of the appointment of the officers of the Chamber, President of the Council announced yesterday that the Ministry had tender [? ed] resignation. It has not, however, as yet been accepted, the King wishing them, before resigning, to submit to the Chamber the measures on account of which it was convoked. Crisis still continues.

The change of Ministers may have much influence on settlement of frontier question.

(Copy sent to Constantinople.)

No. 400.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 23, 5·40 P.M.)

(No. 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, July* 23, 1879, 1·50 P.M.

IN consequence of representations of Servian Government, that of Austria has agreed to *status quo* being maintained on old frontier between Servia and Bosnia. Their Commissioner has therefore been instructed not to raise question of thalweg of the Drina.

No. 401.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 417.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, July* 23, 1879.

IT appears from the telegram from Sir H. Layard, of which the substance was repeated to your Excellency in my despatch No. 396 of the 22nd instant, that the misunderstanding which has arisen between Colonel Clarke and the Russian Commissioners with regard to the point west of Karaourghan, from which the southern portion of the Turco-Russian boundary in Asia is to start, has not yet been cleared up. The discrepancy between Prince Labanoff's language and that of M. de Giers is so marked that I cannot believe that the statement made by the former as to the intended advance of the Russian troops to the disputed frontier was authorized by his Government, and I therefore pass it by for the present, and shall proceed to state, for your Excellency's guidance in your communications with M. de Giers, how the case stands.

You will remember that, after a great deal of discussion between Count Schouvaloff and myself, we arrived at the agreement (recorded in the notes interchanged on the 13th and 17th February) that we would compromise our respective claims in regard to the delimitation of the boundary, by the common admission that the participation of the British Commissioner was to commence "depuis Karaourghan." We did not take note of the fact that Karaourghan is not itself on the frontier, and it would perhaps have made the intention of our agreement clearer if the words "un point à l'ouest près de Karaourghan" had been used instead of the name of the place. But it is evident that the meaning of the agreement was that the participation of Colonel Clarke should commence at the exact point of the frontier which is due west of Karaourghan; in other words, the point where the frontier intersects the latitude of that place. The Russian Commissioner, however, as I understand, has tried to make the participation of our Commissioner commence at a point to the south-west of Karaourghan. Her Majesty's Government cannot admit this limitation of their rights.

Secondly, the Russians contend that an agreement to allow Colonel Clarke to participate in the delimitation "depuis Karaourghan," or, to speak more properly, "depuis un point à l'ouest près de Karaourghan," does not imply that he shall have any share in fixing that point itself. That is a contention which seems to Her Majesty's Government to be irrelevant to the issue, and therefore they will not express an opinion upon it. It reposes on a false view of the functions of delimitation.

The Treaty fixes certain starting points, but it does not fill up the intervals. In order to draw the line between the fixed points which otherwise would remain uncertain, the Commission of Delimitation is appointed. Its function is to supplement, not to supersede, the stipulations of the Treaty. Those Powers who take part in the delimitation have alone a right to be heard on the question of the intermediate lines. But all the Powers who have signed the Treaty have a right to see that the points established by the Treaty are retained.

It is not therefore only by virtue of my agreement with Count Schouvaloff, but by virtue of the general rights of Great Britain as a Signatory of the Treaty, that Her Majesty's Government claim a right to a voice in the question whether the point selected to the west of Karaourghan is "près" or not. They cannot consent to allow the effect of that important word to be defined without their assent. They claim—

First, that Great Britain shall take part in the decision whether the point to the due west of Karaourghan at which the frontier passes is "près" or not.

Secondly, that from that point, when agreed upon, Colonel Clarke shall take part in the delimitation.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 402.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 483.) *Foreign Office, July 23, 1879.*

Sir,

M. BARTHOLOMEI has requested that I would give him a verbal reply to the Memorandum respecting the disputed point of the frontier between Bulgaria and the Dobrudscha which he communicated to me on the 14th instant, and of which I sent your Excellency a copy in my despatch No. 479 of the 18th instant.

I pointed out to him that the principle of decision by the majority furnished the only chance of arriving at a speedy settlement. Its adoption in the case of the Balkan frontier had secured a speedy and successful delimitation. The refusal of the Turks to admit it in the Montenegrin Commission had produced a complete deadlock. It appeared to me, I added, a mere waste of time to attempt to make any arrangement for the settlement of the difficulty which was not based upon this principle. I also said that I could not accept the principle that the new frontier should of necessity be placed inside the "banlieue" of Silistria. If the other powers agreed to send their Representatives on the Balkan Commission to re-examine on the spot the question left undecided by the Roumano-Bulgarian Frontier Commission, I should, I said, have no objection to allowing General Hamley to accompany them, but I could not hold out any hope of his forming an opinion different to that which Colonel Home had adopted.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 403.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 787.) *Paris, July 23, 1879.*

My Lord,

M. WADDINGTON told me this afternoon that it appeared that M. Stourdza had made at Berlin a proposal respecting the Religious Toleration question in Roumania which the German Government was prepared to accept. M. Waddington said that he intended to dispatch this evening to the French Ambassador at Berlin instructions to express the willingness of the French Government also to accept this proposal, but at the same time not to conceal their regret at its not effecting a more complete and satisfactory solution of the question.

If I understood M. Waddington rightly, M. Stourdza's proposal is that not the exact wording of the XLIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, but an equivalent statement shall be inserted in the Roumanian Constitution, and that a law shall be passed admitting at once about 2,000 Jews to citizenship.

M. Waddington's objection appeared to be that the law only admitted these

particular Jews for this once, and did not, as he had always contended ought to be the case, establish categories of Jews, who should always, *ipso facto*, be entitled to the privileges of citizens.

His Excellency said, however, that he was not disposed to make difficulties, as he thought it highly desirable that the recognition of Roumania by France should take place without further delay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 404.

Baron H. de Worms and Mr. Montefiore to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 24.)

Anglo-Jewish Association, Secretary's Office,
160, Portsdown Road, W., July 24, 1879.

My Lord,

IN the interests of toleration, which recognizes no differences of race, creed, or country, we respectfully address your Lordship at this critical moment, when the liberty of our co-religionists in Roumania is once again imperilled.

A serious apprehension exists on all sides lest one of the most humane and beneficent provisions in the Berlin Treaty should be rendered futile through the resistance, offered in Roumania, to the adoption of Article XLIV in that Treaty.

We bear in view that this Article was devised for the purpose of putting an end to those exceptional laws and exclusive measures which have hitherto been prolific sources of official cruelty and popular outrage in that Principality. Unfortunately, all Roumanian legislators do not seem to keep in view the disastrous effects which various laws, especially levelled at the followers of Judaism, have had upon the safety and the well-being of the Jews, as, indeed, upon the public peace of the people, in many districts of the Roumanian Principality.

Whilst some Roumanian statesmen have striven to weld into one homogeneous mass the populations of the Wallachian and Moldavian territories, legal enactments have been formulated and put into operation which have engendered and encouraged amongst peaceful Roumanians antipathies to the Jews, and which have resulted in recurring acts of extreme violence.

As a panacea for these notorious evils, against which Her Majesty's Government have so often remonstrated, it has been recently proposed in Roumania to concede to comparatively few Jews at a time a full participation in civil and political rights, and to leave the preponderating thousands to the uncertain fate of a probationary period and of a complicated legislative procedure.

Should such a scheme be adopted, it would leave the way open, as heretofore, to a continuance of those cruelties against which all civilized Powers have solemnly protested, and to which the Roumanian legislators appear to be utterly oblivious.

We have the concurrence and sympathies of all who confide in British justice in wishing to elicit from Her Majesty's Government the assurance that no compromise will be accepted that the portion of the 7th Article in the Roumanian Constitution, which draws a line of distinction between Christians and non-Christians shall be expunged, and that the Article XLIV of the Berlin Treaty shall be maintained in its integrity; so that all existing distinctions arising from differences of creed shall cease to be a hindrance to the Jews in their claims to possess and enjoy the same civil and political rights as are possessed and enjoyed by the Christians in Roumania.

We have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY DE WORMS, *President of the Anglo-Jewish Association.*
J. M. MONTEFIORE, *President of the London Committee of Deputies of the British Jews.*

No. 405.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 573.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 23, 1879, 2 P.M.*

COLONEL CLARKE has shown me your telegram to him No. 7. It appears to me that the question in discussion depends upon interpretation of Treaty of Berlin, of the Protocol No. 18, and of the correspondence between your Lordship and Schouvaloff in February last. Has the English Commissioner right, or has he not, to take part in deciding the point west of Kraourgan from which work of Tripartite Commission is to commence, or is he bound to accept that point as the terminal one of the line traced by Turco-Russian Commission? This is a matter which it seems to me can only be settled by the two Cabinets. As soon as it is settled the Commission can go on with its work. Colonel Clarke sent a despatch to your Lordship containing his views on the subject by yesterday's messenger.

No. 406.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 112.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, July 23, 1879, 5 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of 18th, M. de Giers says that Minister of Wa has assured him that the distribution of cartridges reported by Mr. Michell cannot have taken place. I insisted on correctness of our information. De Giers acknowledged that if true the act was unjustifiable, and he promised to renew strictest inquiry.

No. 407.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 113.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, July 23, 1879, 5 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of 22nd, M. de Giers assures me that Labanoff has not been authorized to use langunge reported by Sir H. Layard. No such orders have been given or are in contemplation. The Emperor is anxious to come to an amicable understanding. He added that Labanoff's allusion must have been only a rhetorical exemplification of the inconveniences of delay. M. de Giers has only this morning recieved the papers referring to the subject, but the Russian map which ought to have accompanied them has not arrived, only the Turkish one. He has begged me to defer further conversation until Friday, by which time he will have had time to study the documents.

No. 408.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 24, 11 A.M.)

(No. 114.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, July 23, 1879, 10·30 P.M.*

M. DE GIERS alluded to-day to the massing of Turkish troops along southern boundary of Roumelia, and, in reference to Mr. Michell's language and Porte's declaration that the Berlin Treaty did not require previous consent of Commission to entry of Turkish troops, expressed his anxiety lest there should be an intention of sending Turkish troops into the interior of the province. I told him that, after the agreement arrived at between the Powers, I did not think that such a thing was likely to occur except in the manner provided for, but that if millions of cartridges were being distributed to Gymnastic Societies in the manner reported, the Sultan's Government would be probably compelled in self-defence to put a stop to such practices by

garrisoning Bourgas and other frontier places. M. de Giers added that he was convinced we desired to have to have the thing work peacefully and successfully, but that he dreaded the Austrians fomenting troubles for their own purposes.

No. 409.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 140.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 24, 1879, 3·30 P.M.*

YOURS No. 113.

I have written fully about Asiatic delimitation question by last night's messenger.

No. 410.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 962.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 24, 1879.*

HER Majesty's Consul-General at Philippoplis has reported that Sir Collingwood Dickson and Captain de Torcy have, during their visit to Philippopolis, rendered great assistance to General Vitalis in concerting measures with him for the reorganization of the local militia and gendarmerie of the province.

I request that your Excellency will convey to Sir C. Dickson my acknowledgments for the valuable services which he has afforded in these matters to the authorities in Eastern Roumelia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 411.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 963.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 24, 1879.*

THE instructions with which your Excellency has already been furnished will serve to show the very great interest felt in this country with regard to the welfare of the Armenian subjects of the Sultan, and the importance, in the interests of the Porte, of putting into execution with the least possible delay the reforms which it has engaged itself to apply to the Asiatic provinces of the Ottoman Empire.

Her Majesty's Government have learned with great satisfaction, from your Excellency's despatch No. 591 of the 7th instant, that you have again called the serious attention of the Sultan's Ministers to these matters, and I have to convey to you my approval of the observations you addressed to Carathéodory Pasha at your interview with his Excellency on that day.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 412.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Michell.

(No. 21.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 24, 1879.*

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 36, Confidential, of the 4th instant, reporting the substance of a conversation you had had with Aleko Pasha, in which you drew his Excellency's attention to various irregularities in the administration of the province which had come under your notice.

In reply, I have to state to you that I entirely approve the language used by you on this occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 413.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Mickell.

(No. 22.) *Foreign Office, July 24, 1879.*

Sir,

I HAVE to state to you that the proceedings of Aleko Pasha, as reported in your despatch No. 42 of the 5th instant, with regard to the nomination of the officers proposed by General Vitalis for service in the militia and gendarmerie of Eastern Roumelia, appear to have been most reprehensible; and I approve your action in having seriously remonstrated with his Excellency upon the line he has taken in these matters, which renders his conduct open to grave suspicion.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 414.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke.

(No. 54.) *Foreign Office, July 24, 1879.*

Sir,

IN reply to your despatch No. 55 of the 6th instant, I have to express to you my approval of your proceedings with reference to the discussion which has arisen as to the interpretation of that part of Article LVIII of the Treaty of Berlin which describes the line of frontier to be traced between Artwin and a point to the south of Narinian.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 415.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 416.) *Foreign Office, July 24, 1879.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Excellency's telegram of the 23rd instant, No. 113, reporting the observations made by M. de Giers respecting the proceedings of the Commission for the delimitation of the frontiers between Russia and Turkey in Asia, I have informed you by telegraph to-day that full instructions as to the views of Her Majesty's Government on this subject were sent to you by last night's messenger.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 416.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 24, 7 P.M.)

(No. 144.) (Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July 24, 1879, 4·40 P.M.*

AUSTRIAN Government have returned no answer to the Russian proposal respecting Dobrudscha frontier, but Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs' opinion quite coincides with language held by you to Russian Chargé d'Affaires as stated in your telegram of Tuesday.

No. 417.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 24.)

(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, July 24, 1879, 7·35 P.M.*

[Group wrong.] I presented both your Lordship's letter (*sic*) to the Prince, who received it very graciously, speaking with much gratitude of Her Majesty and of your Lordship, also with great affection of late Princess Alice.

Affairs in general satisfactory. I have written to Varna and Rustchuk to inquire into alleged ill-treatment of Mahommedans.

No. 418.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 25.)

(No. 2.) (Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, July 24, 1879, 6 P.M.*

CHAMBERS prorogued for one month from yesterday.

Ministry has announced their programme, which Foreign Minister intends to advocate *viva voce*, by a visit to be paid by him immediately, at Berlin, Paris, and, possibly, other Courts.

In the statement made public the right of naturalizing Jews only individually is adhered to; but it is intended only to insert the removal of all religious, civil, or political disabilities in text of Constitution, but to accompany this law by a schedule conferring naturalization at the same time on a large number of Jews, inserting their names.

In this way the demands of the Powers are to be met, while endeavouring to abate present agitation.

No. 419.

General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 25.)

(No. 15.) (Telegraphic.) *Bujukdéré, July 24, 1879, 8·20 P.M.*

MEETING of all the Commissioners held to-day.

Russian map of western frontier had been promised for the 28th June, but was not ready. Examination of frontier has been completed by Commission, but the work can be completed without the map, which Russian Commissioner states will not be ready for six weeks. Delay attributed to hindrance of the topographers by Turk [group wrong, ? authoritie]s. Commission pressed for hastening of work, and Russian promised to urge it.

Some Commissioners not satisfied that Russians are acting in good faith in the matter. Others think delay inexpedient. I consider work might be finished in less time.

No. 420.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 25.)

(No. 576. Secret.) (Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 24, 1879, 8·45 P.M.*

SULTAN has sent to tell me, in reply to my letter, that he is fully alive to the importance of carrying out [?] three reforms specified in Safvet Pasha's note of the 24th June, and he has directed his Ministers to report what the Porte could undertake to effect with regard to them under present circumstances, and that such as presented no serious difficulties should be at once put into execution.

His Majesty says that he is resolved to adhere to British policy, and hopes that he has given sufficient proofs of his intention. His Majesty's feelings towards England are well known, and no one could detach him from his alliance with her.

His Majesty denies emphatically that corruption exists in Palace, and alleges the reports on the subject to be calumnies.

His Majesty adds that he has commanded his Ministers to give their attention to Greek question, without losing sight of dangers of an Albanian insurrection, which might compromise the safety of his Throne, and to devise some solution to reconcile recommendation of Treaty of Berlin with the maintenance of tranquillity of bordering Turkish provinces.

Hairedin Pasha still refuses to withdraw his resignation, and to go to the Porte, until Sultan has accepted his conditions, which include calling together of the Chambers under new regulations.

This afternoon [? His Majesty] held a Council of Mollahs, to consult them, but I have hopes that he will end by yielding.

No. 421.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 25, 12·20 P.M.)

(No. 29.)
(Telegraphic.) *Buda-Pesth, July* 25, 1879, 10·35 A.M.

A TELEGRAM from Her Majesty's Commissioner, dated yesterday, informs me that the whole frontier is now marked on the ground, and unanimously accepted by the Commission.

Thinks the Ottoman, Austrian, and French Governments can raise no objections to the frontier fixed at Prepolac.

He expects to arrive at Belgrade on the 28th, and, after finishing maps, &c., to be ready to return to England by the 8th or 10th August.

No. 422.

The Marquis of Salisbury to General Hamley.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 25, 1879, 5·15 P.M.

YOURS No. 15.

I incline to think Russian delay is intentional, and that the object is to postpone possible occupation of Balkans and Bourgas by Turks. It is not, however, clear what the Russians will gain by this postponement.

If you hear of any concentration of militia or gymnasts towards Macedonia, let me know.

No. 423.

The Marquis of Salisbury to General Hamley.

(No. 35.) *Foreign Office, July* 25, 1879.

Sir,

I AM inclined to think that the delay in the production of the map of the western frontier promised by the Russian Commissioner is intentional, the object being to postpone any possible occupation by the Turks of the Balkans and of Bourgas; at the same time, it is not clear what the Russians will gain by this postponement.

Should any information reach you of the concentration of militia or of members of the gymnastic schools in the direction of Macedonia, I should wish it to be reported to me at once.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 424.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 26.)

(No. 97. Political.) *Cettigné, July* 10, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 95 and 96, Political, of the 5th and 7th instant, I have the honour to report that on the continued representations of Hussein Pasha, who maintained that the Montenegrins were pushing forward their outposts in the direction of Dulcigno, and that he would shortly very probably be obliged to order his troops to oppose the advance by force, I addressed a letter to Voïvoda Radonich, which was forwarded by special messenger, requesting him to inform the Prince in my name that if the Montenegrins would suspend any forward movement they might be making, I would engage that the Turkish authorities would do nothing on their side which would bring about a collision.

I received a prompt reply from M. Radonich, stating that the Montenegrin Government considered the misunderstanding as now cleared up, and that consequently the reinforcements which had been sent forward to Kruce had been ordered to return to Antivari.

As, at the same time as this communication was made to me, I was enabled to ascertain, through independent sources, that the Montenegrins were correct in their assertions that they had never advanced from the positions which they had taken up after withdrawing from Dulcigno, I thought it would be well for me to avail myself of the national Feast of St. Peter, which occurs to-morrow, to come to Cettigné and take part in it, so as to be enabled to thank Prince Nicholas for the consideration shown by him for my representations, and, at the same time, to urge him to strictly observe the engagements entered into by his Government with the Turks concerning the provisional frontiers.

I have found His Highness animated by the most conciliatory wishes, and he has admitted to me that he believes it possible his outposts may not be occupying the exact positions which they ought to have taken up, but as Hussein Pasha had accused him of having advanced them within the last few days, he had determined to stand his ground, to prove that he had not moved from the line which had been occupied with the knowledge and tacit consent of the Turks when Dulcigno was evacuated.

The Prince has repeated to me his assurances that nothing would be done by the Montenegrins to give colour to Hussein Pasha's complaints that they were encroaching upon Turkish territory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 425.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 26.)

(No. 98. Political.) *Cettigné, July* 11, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 8th instant, directing me to communicate to Captain Sale Count Andrassy's views on the pretensions of the Montenegrin Government concerning the line of frontier to be adopted near Podgoritza, I have the honour to report that I have found Prince Nicholas and his Ministers very keen on the subject of making Podgoritza the capital of Montenegro; but, at the same time, I have observed that they have not mentioned as a necessary part of their plan the possession on the edge of the Albanian Mountains of the strategical positions of Hum, Tusi, and Dinosi, positions which they had, until quite recently, declared to be absolutely indispensable for the safety of Podgoritza.

Colonel Thömmel, the Austrian Minister Resident, leads me to understand that he is supporting the present claims of the Montenegrins to certain slight modifications of the line of frontier on the Podgoritza plain, which, he says, would be quite in accordance with the spirit of the Treaty of Berlin, although, owing to an error in the Austrian Staff Map, it would deviate from the strict interpretation of the text of the Treaty.

I have not hidden from Colonel Thömmel my belief that his views may fall as a surprise in most unexpected quarters, and knowing the high value placed on his recommendations at Vienna, I have ventured to suggest to him that he should embody them in a Memorandum, and ask, if they should meet with the approval of his Government, that the Memorandum should be communicated to Sir Henry Elliot, as by this means possibly, when the Boundary Commissioners come to discuss the question of the frontier around Podgoritza, a great divergence of opinion between the Austrian and English Commissioners may be avoided.

Personally, I am of opinion that the Montenegrins ought to be encouraged into carrying out their idea of making Podgoritza their capital, as they would thus learn to understand better than now the dangers of war, for it would require the whole strength of the Principality to be ranged in defence around the town, whilst a very small force could always seriously threaten it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 426.

Captain Sale to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 26.)

(No. 15.) *Scutari, July 15, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report having sent, on the 13th instant, to your Lordship, a telegram of which the following is the substance, viz. :—

"The Ottoman Boundary Commissioners have just received a telegram from the Porte directing them to recommence work with the Commission on those parts of the frontier concerning which there is no contestation.

"As there is no portion of the frontier between Turkey and Montenegro (on this side) which will not be disputed, this is equivalent to directing the Commissioners to abstain from taking part in the Commission.

"The Russian and Montenegrin Commissioners went to Cettigné on the 9th instant, and do not propose to return to this place until the Turks consent to follow the decision of the majority.

"The Turkish authorities have received no intimation of the recall of Hussein Pasha, Vali of Scutari."

I have, &c.

(Signed) M. T. SALE, *Captain, R.E.*,
Commissioner.

No. 427.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 26.)

(No. 14. Political.) *Corfu, July 22, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a despatch just received from the Vice-Consul at Santa Maura, which refers to the only occurrences worth recording since the date of my Report by last mail.

2. The fall of the Coumoundouros Ministry has created scarcely any sensation in the islands. It may be regretted, perhaps, on the eve of a general election as opening up a wider arena for the display of political rivalries. The coming elections will doubtless be keenly contested throughout, but with the possible exception of the Island of Zante, where Lombardo's party is strong. I see little reason to apprehend any formidable disturbance of the public tranquillity.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

Inclosure in No. 427.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

Santa Maura, July 19, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Minister of War arrived here on Monday morning (14th instant). His Excellency will, according to the present arrangements, start for Lepenus to-morrow to inspect the camp, where a series of military manœuvres is about to be executed, for which purpose 60,000 cartridges have been forwarded from Santa Maura this week, and 70,000 from Athens.

The force assembled at Lepenus consists of 10 battalions, infantry; 4 batteries artillery; 1 squadron cavalry; 1 battalion Sappers; and 2 hospital trains. It would appear from reports that have reached us from the camp that the climate of Lepenus is—as it has been anticipated from the outset by competent authorities—telling very sadly on the health of the troops, a number of whom is said to be much affected by the fevers which prevail in the locality at this season of the year.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS ONOFRIO.

No. 428.

Count Andrássy to Count Károlyi.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Count Károlyi, July 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July 25, 1879.*

(Confidential.)

OUR views on the Russian Circular are as follows:—

By dislodging the Roumanians, the military honour of Russia has been satisfied. The unanimity of six of the Commissioners hardly admits of a doubt on the question whether there is another place in which a bridge uniting the two Roumanian banks could be erected. This seems all the more unlikely, as, according to the 15th Protocol of the Treaty of Berlin, the experts had already then declared that only one such place existed. As in spite of this the Cabinet of St. Petersburg is convinced of the existence of another suitable point, we are prepared to give them a proof of our desire of meeting them half way by instructing our Commissioner to study the question afresh, with the particular view of ascertaining whether, at the place to be proposed by Russia, it would be possible to construct a bridge at an outlay which would not be simply ruinous. If, however, we make this concession to submit the almost unanimous decision of the Commission to a new investigation, we must on the other hand demand an absolute guarantee that the decision of the Commission, taken *per majora*, must be final, and can not be submitted to further negotiations between the Cabinets. To direct the Commissioners to draw the new line outside the banlieue of Silistria seems to us quite inadmissible, because that would be prejudging the very question for the solution of which the Commission would be called together. We do not believe that the Cabinet of St. Petersburg is in fairness entitled to demand that all the Powers should, by giving such instructions, place themselves against the unanimous opinions of their own Commissioners on the side of the Commissioner of Russia.

The above is the sense in which Count Andrassy intends to answer the Russian Circular. Before doing so, or expressing his opinion to the other Cabinets on the subject, he desires to be made aware of the view entertained by the British Government.

Count Andrassy further desires me to acquaint the British Cabinet, in strict confidence, that the Russian Chargé d'Affaires at Vienna has supported the urgency of the matter on the remarkable ground, that the presence of the Russian troops would soon come to a close. If that were intended to convey that the entire evacuation of Bulgaria depended on the delimitation question, Count Andrassy is of opinion that the two Cabinets should declare at St. Petersburg that they do not admit any connection between the two questions.

No. 429.

Carathéodory Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, July 26.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 24 Juillet, 1879.*

INDÉPENDAMMENT des deux questions de Gorica-Topal et de Clementi, une grosse difficulté est celle qui se rattache à la délimitation de Goussinie et Plava. Les populations Albanaises de ces contrées se montrent très-opposées à toute cession au Monténégro. Celui-ci, de son côté, connait cette situation, et il avait été question d'un arrangement par équivalent du côté de Cucikraina. Sur ce point, les négociations qui avaient été entamées par Kiamil Pacha, ont été suspendues par suite de la maladie qui obligea notre Commissaire de revenir à Constantinople. Nous nous proposons de renouveler les pourparlers avec un envoyé du Prince, qui est attendu ici d'un moment à l'autre. En attendant, votre Excellence aura la bonté d'en entretenir Lord Salisbury afin de prévenir tout malentendu qui pourrait être le résultat de l'idée dans laquelle se trouverait que, en dehors de l'affaire de Gorica-Topal et de Clementi, il ne nous reste aucune autre question importante avec le Monténégro. Par sa nature même, l'affaire de Goussinie-Plava est de celles qui réclament l'attention des Cabinets, et qui échappent à l'autorité d'un vote par majorité.

No. 430.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 26, 11·30 A.M.)

(No. 29.) *Philippopolis, July* 25, 1879, 4·25 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

YESTERDAY the Governor-General caused the flagstaff, with the Bulgarian colours, at the bridge to be cut down by the Police Master, probably under orders from Constantinople. Later a mob assembled and set up another Bulgarian flag on a pole amid great excitement in the town. The Bulgarian shops were shut, and gymnasts appeared with arms in the streets at night. The flag is being guarded by their sentries.

To-day the Governor-General has ordered a Proclamation to be issued insisting on the flag being taken down by the inhabitants, and threatening, in case of disobedience, that he will leave province by the early train to-morrow morning.

There was a noisy meeting at the Bulgarian school this morning, and the Bulgarian Metropolitan has gone with a deputation to the country residence of the Governor-General to induce him to withdraw his Proclamation.

Most of the Bulgarian shops are shut to-day.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 431.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 26, 12·30 P.M.)

(No. 578.) *Therapia, July* 26, 1879, 10·55 A.M.
(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING from Consul-General Blunt:—

"Following from Longworth, Thessaly:

"'Six battalions and three batteries have arrived from Constantinople.'"

No. 432.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 26, 3 P.M.)

(No. 32.) *Philippopolis, July* 25, 1879, 11 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

ON the 17th instant, 400 cases, containing 348,000 cartridges, arrived here in two railway cars from Yamboli, and were delivered on the same day to the Bulgarian barracks in this town. They were accompanied by a Russian certificate of the way-bill, stating that they had been forwarded by the Russian Government, which has consequently been debited with carriage in the railway books.

Fundamental facts can be proved by books at this station.

I am promised the way-bill to-morrow, but shall in any case obtain a copy.

More ammunition is expected within [group wrong].

I have arranged to have the first notice of its arrival, and shall then communicate with the Governor-General.

No. 433.

General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 26, 3·22 P.M.)

o. 17.) *Therapia, July* 26, 1879, 3·50 P.M.
elegraphic.)

TO-DAY I made the following proposition at the meeting:—

As the Russian Commissioner has named two months as the period in which the Russian map may be expected, and as we have not sufficient assurance that this limit will not be exceeded, I place at the service of the Commission a party of officers ready to proceed to the frontier and to complete sufficiently the map. These officers

are Major Ardagh and Captain Jones, with Captain Everett detained at my request by the Ambassador. Lieutenant de Wolski just returned from Roumelia.

These can depart in a very few days. Please reply at once whether this [? idea] is approved.

No. 434.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Michell.

(No. 51. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 26, 1879, 5·45 P.M.

TRY and persuade Aleko not to quarrel with his people till the Russians are out of the province. This is most important.

No. 435.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 156.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 26, 1879, 7 P.M.

AUSTRIANS are alarmed at phrase in Russian Circular about Silistria, which seems to intimate that Russian Government consider evacuation may be delayed for settlement of Arab Tabia question. Please consult with Austrian Ambassador, and if he is instructed, represent to Russian Government that the two subjects have no connection, and that evacuation must not be delayed on account of any question as to Dobrudscha frontier. You should make a communication in the same sense, though, of course, not in identic terms.

No. 436.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 419.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, July* 26, 1879.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Excellency's information, a translation of a telegram which has been left with me by Count Károlyi.

Your Excellency will perceive that the Austrian Government has taken alarm at a phrase in the Russian Memorandum respecting Silistria which seems to intimate that, in the opinion of the Russian Government, the evacuation by their troops may be delayed until the question respecting the fortress of Arab-Tabia is settled.

A copy of this Memorandum was communicated to me by M. Bartholomei on the 14th instant, and forwarded to your Excellency with my despatch No. 401 of the 23rd.

I have now requested your Excellency, by telegraph, to consult with your Austrian colleague. If he has been instructed to represent to the Russian Government that the questions of the frontier between the Dobrudscha and Bulgaria and of the Russian evacuation have no connection, and that the evacuation by their troops must not be delayed on account of any difference of opinion with regard to that frontier, I should wish you to make a communication to M. de Giers in the same sense, though, of course, not in identic terms.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 437.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Michell.

(No. 25. Secret.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 26, 1879.

It is most important that the Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia should keep on good terms with the Bulgarian inhabitants of the province, and I have to instruct

you to caution his Excellency against an open quarrel with them before the Russians have entirely left it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 438.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 495.) *Foreign Office, July 26, 1879.*

Sir,

COUNT KÁROLYI communicated to me to-day the telegram, of which a copy is inclosed, explaining the views of the Austro-Hungarian Government as to the answer that should be returned to the Russian Circular respecting the frontier between Roumania and Bulgaria, and expressing the wish that they might be informed as to the views entertained on the subject by Her Majesty's Government.

I expressed my general concurrence in the proposed answer, and promised that I would instruct Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg to consult with his Austrian colleague as to making the communication, suggested in the last sentence of the telegram, that the two Governments could not admit the existence of any connection between the settlement of the frontier difficulty and the evacuation of the territory south of the Danube, still in occupation by the Russian troops.

I have accordingly telegraphed to Lord Dufferin that if the Austrian Minister has been instructed to make a representation in this sense, he is to make a similar representation, though not in identic terms.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 439.

Lord Tenterden to Baron H. de Worms and Mr. Montefiore.

Foreign Office, July 26, 1879.

Gentlemen,

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th instant relative to the position of the Jews in Roumania, and to the execution of the provisions of Article XLIV of the Treaty of Berlin.

In reply, I am to state to you that this subject is one that is engaging the most serious attention of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 440.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 30.) *Philippopolis, July 26, 1879.*
(Telegraphic.)

TURKISH Commissioners having received instructions to withdraw their objections to the Resolutions moved at the late meeting of the Commission, the latter will be convened for to-morrow. As the Austrian Commissioner has been authorized to agree, in the case of a unanimous vote, the opinion of the Commission will be obligatory on the Governor-General, I shall likewise be compelled to withdraw reservation made at the last meeting.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 441.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 33.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, July 26, 1879.*

THE new Bulgarian flag has not yet been taken down, but I learn that the Bulgarian deputation which waited on the Governor-General promised him that the flag will be removed quietly at a more opportune moment.

The town is fairly quiet.

General Vitalis yesterday offered to disperse mobilization (*sic*), but was forbidden by the Secretary-General.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 442.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 34.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, July 26, 1879.*

THE original way-bill for the two cars of ammunition is in my possession, and will be forwarded by messenger to-morrow. It bears in French the words "of the Imperial Russian army."

This ammunition was delivered to a Bulgarian bookseller, not a chemist, called Mancheff, and is stored on the premises occupied by the National Committee, of which the bookseller is Secretary.

On the same day two other cars with ammunition passed through to Tatar-Bazardjik.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 443.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 27, 3:30 P.M.)

(No. 35.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, July 26, 1879.*

THE Bulgarian flag was removed this morning by Bulgarians, and taken to the school where their meetings are held.

All is outwardly quiet, but there is much agitation against Vitalis.

No. 444.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, July 26, 1879.*

WITH reference to my telegram of the 23rd instant, the Opposition having been unable to agree to conditions which the King desired to impose if they were charged to form a Ministry, His Majesty has ordered the former Cabinet to continue in office.

Ministerial crisis at an end for the present.

No. 445.

Major Tratter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 28.)

(No. 17. Political.)
My Lord, *Erzeroum, July 5, 1879.*

IN my despatch No. 14 P of the 7th June, I stated that the Persians were intriguing in the country west of Khotour, with the probable intention of claiming as

much territory as possible in the direction of Van when the boundary question should come forward for discussion.

I have since learned that the Ottoman authorities are much exercised at the proceedings of certain Kurdish Chiefs of distinction, notably of Sheikh Abeydullah, of Schemdin (to the south-east of Hakkiari), who is said to contemplate migrating to Persian territory with a numerous following, and whose defection may, it is considered, cause future troubles on boundary questions with Persia. This Chief, who is notorious for his persecution of the Nestorian Christians, is one of the most influential of the Kurds—as I find it stated in my note-book, jotted down at Bayazid during the war, "that the most important and influential of the Kurdish Chiefs, giving aid and assistance to the Turkish cause, is Abeydullah Bey, who is present in camp, with 2,000 armed followers."

Instructions have, I understand, been sent to the Vali of Van, to make every exertion to keep Abeydullah Bey on Turkish soil and faithful to the Turkish cause.

These reputed intrigues, together with what I have reported in recent despatches about the frontier dispute near Olti, appear to render it very desirable, in the interests of all parties concerned, that the demarcation and final settlement of the new frontier-line should be made as soon as possible. In a few months' time the country will be more or less impracticable, and operations will then have to be postponed till next year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

P.S.—July 7. The Vali Pasha informed me to-day that subsequent to the recent evacuation by the Turks of the two villages of Pakkeh and Suakians, near Olti, these villages were occupied by Russian troops. The Vali protested to the Consul-General against this act (as the real ownership of the villages was still in doubt), and has just learned that the Russian troops have been withdrawn in consequence of his protest.

H. T.

No. 446.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 28.)

(Separate. Very Confidential.)

Erzeroum, July 12, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's confidential information, a literal translation of the instructions recently given by the Sublime Porte to the Imperial Commissioners for the reform of the Provinces of Erzeroum and Van.

I obtained this translation, which was specially executed for me, from a private source, but I am certain of the authenticity of the document.

As the person who communicated it to me would probably get into trouble were the fact made known to any of his superiors, I have the honour to request that the document (of which I have also sent a copy to Her Majesty's Ambassador with the same request) may be considered as strictly confidential, at all events until such time as I may be able to obtain a copy openly and officially.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure in No. 446.

Instructions by Sublime Porte to Imperial Commissioners of Reforms for Vilayets of Erzeroum and Van.

(Traduction.)

LEURS Excellences, sitôt arrivées au centre des susdits vilayets, formeront sous leur présidence une Commission, dont les membres seront pris parmi les différentes communautés, sujets Ottomans, selon le nombre de chaque communauté, d'un jusqu'à quatre membres et en cas exigeant, de plus. Elles auront soin que ces membres aient des connaissances de l'état du pays et soient des personnes aux idées utiles. Leurs Excellences feront aussi le choix de quelques personnages parmi les fonctionnaires

locaux et les nommeront membres de la susdite Commission, dans laquelle seront délibérés et examinés avec une pleine liberté les défauts du régime actuel, les besoins locaux et les réformes importantes à faire, prenant en considération les règlements des vilayets dernièrement élaborés; et immédiatement après seront mises en exécution, d'accord avec son Excellence le Vali du vilayet, les réformes importantes et possibles dans toutes les branches du Gouvernement. Quant aux réformes urgentes pour les règlements déjà en cours, leurs Excellences donneront des connaissances motivées à la Sublime Porte et agiront conformément aux réponses reçues d'elle.

2. Leurs Excellences sont autorisées de former une Commission au chef-lieu du vilayet prenant pour base le règlement de la gendarmerie élaboré dernièrement, et d'accord avec son Excellence le Vali, elles organiseront la force de la police du vilayet; et parce qu'elles auront grand soin que les gendarmes et leurs officiers soient des gens de probité et de moralité, en conférant avec la Ministère de la Police, elles écarteront ceux d'entre eux qui ne le sont pas, et quant à ceux contre lesquels seront portées des plaintes, après les avoir subis à une interrogation, un jugement sera porté sur eux. Dans l'exécution de cette réforme on aura soin qu'il n'y ait pas de frais supplémentaires sur ceux déjà consignés, mais en cas urgent d'augmentation on prendra d'abord des informations de la Sublime Porte et ensuite on agira conformément aux ordres reçus d'elle.

3. Leurs Excellences examineront l'état des différents Tribunaux civils, et prenant pour base les règlements généraux récemment rédigés pour l'organisation des Tribunaux du Gouvernement Ottoman, elles les diviseront, où l'on sentira la nécessité, en deux sections, la première sous la présidence du Président actuel, pour les procès ordinaires, la seconde pour les crimes et délits sous la présidence d'un Sous-Président, qui sera élu par leurs Excellences parmi les membres de la même section, et nommé par la Sublime Porte. Tous ces Juges procéderont conformément au système de la procédure du Code Pénal.

4. Considérant qu'en effet il sera urgent de changer tous les Juges dont l'incapacité et les abus seront démontrés, leurs Excellences sont obligées de désigner des nouveaux membres pour les deux Tribunaux, et fixer le montant de leurs appointements et de ceux des gens des Tribunaux, et en même temps ouvrir de nouveaux Tribunaux où l'urgence est très-sentie et créer des moyens utiles pour assurer leur indépendance de l'autorité locale. Soit les membres sus-cités, soit ceux des Tribunaux de Commerce quand ils sont relevés de leurs fonctions par les motifs susmentionnés, leurs Excellences les remplaceront par d'autres personnes selon le mode tracé dans le règlement susmentionné, et ensuite elles en donneront un rapport en y exposant à la fois au Gouvernement les causes urgentes de leurs nominations, et elles auront toujours grand soin de ne pas augmenter à cause de ces réformes, tant qu'il soit possible, le montant des frais actuels, mais si la nécessité d'augmentation se fait sentir, elles en donneront connaissance au Ministère de la Justice.

5. Leurs Excellences sont autorisées de changer les membres du Conseil Administratif contre lesquels des plaintes auront lieu et en cas d'urgence, en remettant l'acte de leur accusation au Tribunal special, de les faire subir même un jugement. Leurs Excellences remplaceront ces membres par d'autres sous leur surveillance et conformément au dernier règlement.

6. Leurs Excellences sont autorisées de s'informer de la conduite des fonctionnaires civils et financiers, s'ils sont incapables et corrompus, et en cas que leur incapacité et corruption seront prouvées, elles les relèveront de leurs fonctions et les feront subir un jugement; mais quant aux Sous-Gouverneurs (Mutessarifs) et les autres fonctionnaires égaux à eux, dont la mise en jugement dépend sur la Sublime Porte selon le règlement de la procédure des fonctionnaires, ils ne seront pas mis en jugement immédiat qu'en donnant un rapport circonstancié à la Sublime Porte; mais en attendant ils seront remplacés provisoirement par d'autres personnes jusqu'à ce que la décision de la Sublime Porte soit donnée. De même, d'accord avec son Excellence le Vali, elles nommeront et désigneront des gens honorables du pays aux fonctions supérieures et inférieures, s'ils en trouvent, pour remplacer ceux dont le changement sera urgent. S'il y a absence de telles personnes dans le pays elles doivent s'adresser à la Sublime Porte, afin qu'elle les envoie de Constantinople; quant aux fonctionnaires des Tribunaux de la loi sacrée ils seront examinés aussi; et pour leur changement un rapport sera donné à la Sublime Porte.

7. Leurs Excellences étudieront en détail, en présence du Conseil Administratif, les modes de la division et de la collection de toute sorte de contributions, et, prenant en considération l'opinion de son Excellence le Vali du vilayet, exécuteront les réformes qui peuvent être introduites par les lois et les règlements actuels, et qui sont possibles

vu l'état des choses du pays; mais quant aux réformes qui exigent un changement complet ou une modification des règlements actuels, il sera donné immédiatement un rapport à la Sublime Porte où seront exposés les opinions et les considérations de leurs Excellences.

8. Leurs Excellences, après avoir mis en ordre jusqu'à un certain point les affaires du centre du vilayet, devront aller immédiatement aux autres lieux importants du vilayet, où, en étudiant les plaintes et protestations du peuple, elles administreront ce qu'il faut, conformément à ce qui a été dit ci-dessus.

9. Leurs Excellences sont autorisées d'exiger la force militaire des Commandants les plus proches pour les lieux, et surtout pour les places où les tribus nomades ont leurs domiciles fixes ou mobiles, et parmi lesquels la force de la loi de l'Empire Ottoman n'est pas encore complétement en vigueur. A l'aide de cette force armée seront mis en exécution tous les moyens importants par lesquels seront respectées les lois et les disciplines de l'Empire, et la sécurité publique assurée, aussi bien que la collection régulière des contributions et la pleine exécution des sentences judiciaires prononcées contre ces tribus ou contre les Chefs Kurdes, conformément aux lois générales. Là où l'on verra l'urgence des réformes et des organisations extraordinaires leurs Excellences doivent immédiatement en faire le rapport à la Sublime Porte, et pour se conformer complétement aux exigences des lois, en cas de besoin ces places peuvent être mises en état de siége par un ordre reçu de la Sublime Porte. Il faut de même exclure ou éloigner de leur pays les gens dont la présence empêche ou met un obstacle à la tranquillité publique. Quant à l'établissement en domicile fixe des tribus nomades, qui est une affaire essentielle pour la sécurité publique et qui peut s'exécuter facilement, il sera confié à l'autorité locale.

10. Leurs Excellences sont autorisées de former en tout lieu où elles le jugeront convenable des Commissions chargées d'examiner en première instance les plaintes et protestations qui seront présentées de par le peuple contre les fonctionnaires du Gouvernement et contre qui que ce soit. Les documents concernant l'interrogation et les personnes accusées par cette Commission seront remis aux Tribunaux qui par leur compétence les jugeront en présence d'un Procureur-Général qui sera nommé par leurs Excellences. Et puisque de tout temps des plaintes ont été portées contre les Kurdes et d'autres tribus qui selon leur conduite ordinaire et leur manière de vivre tyrannisent le peuple, ravissent leurs biens, s'emparent de leurs possessions et les privent de leur vie, ravagent et pillant les campagnes et osant commettre d'autres méfaits inconnus: ce qui a pu se faire parce que le Gouvernement, à cause de la guerre récente, n'a pu entretenir une force armée aussi grande qu'auparavant, et s'est passé surtout quand, appelées au champ de bataille, les tribus se sont trouvées rassemblées, les armes à la main, et en présence d'une grande opportunité de commettre des ravages et des meurtres (parmi ces tribus les Kurdes de Dersim, de Modki, de Hassananli osent encore continuer leurs pillages et cruautés, et les Chefs de ces tribus s'emparent de villages et prennent forcément des contributions des villageois; et il y a des Chrétiens aussi qui se servent d'eux comme instruments de leur vengeance les uns contre les autres, et même les paient pour de tels services); il faut que ces plaintes soient examinées en détail, que les criminels et les délateurs soient envoyés aux Tribunaux et que, selon leurs crimes et délits, la punition leur soit imposée au nom de la loi.

11. Il faut aussi que leurs Excellences conseillent et recommandent aux fonctionnaires locaux et aux Notables du pays l'exécution de la loi de l'Instruction Publique aussitôt que possible; mais quant aux organisations gouvernementales, elles doivent donner des rapports à la Sublime Porte.

No. 447.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 28.)

(No. 417. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Vienna, July 19, 1879.

I FOUND this afternoon from Baron Calice that Count Károlyi had reported that, though your Lordship was as desirous as Count Andrassy of not giving the Greeks cause to consider the Russians more favourably inclined towards them than other Governments, he believed Her Majesty's Government to be so far committed upon the question of the cession of Janina as to render it difficult for your Lordship to adopt altogether the course proposed by Count Andrassy.

I said that, as Count Andrassy's chief object was that the exclusion of Janina from the territory to be ceded should be the result of the insuperable objection of the Porte, I would suggest that it might be attained in a manner as effectual and perhaps more straightforward than that which he has proposed. If, for instance, the Porte, in notifying the nomination of its Commissioners, were to intimate that they would be prohibited from discussing a line which included the place in question in the country to be given up, or even if the Turkish Commissioners were to inform their colleagues at their first meeting that their instructions did not allow them to entertain it, I thought we should arrive at the point Count Andrassy wished to reach, and I asked whether Baron Calice believed that Her Majesty's Government could then count upon his Excelleney's support for the alternative line which your Lordship might recommend.

Baron Calice said that it was of course impossible for him to say how Count Andrassy might regard the proposal, but as I know his Excelleney to be pretty well convinced that Janina cannot be made over to Greece, and also that he is most desirous of acting with Her Majesty's Government upon the frontier question, in submitting to your Lordship by telegraph the suggestion I have mentioned, I have added my personal belief that, by its adoption, the Austrian Government might be brought to support the line which your Lordship may propose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOTT.

No. 448.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 28.)

(No. 450.)
My Lord,

Vienna, July 22, 1879.

BARON CALICE asked me to-day whether your Lordship had informed me of a proposal which Count Károlyi had reported you to have made, by which the Porte would be invited to instruct its Commissioners to examine the frontier-line between Turkey and Greece, in accordance with the recommendation of the Powers at Berlin, without any mention being made of Janina.

I said that I had received nothing from your Lordship on the subject, but that if Count Károlyi had correctly conveyed your meaning the proposal seemed entirely to meet the object desired by Count Andrassy, as it would enable the Porte at once to put forward its objection to entertain a project by which it should be called to cede Janina to Greece, in which case I hoped his Excelleney would support Her Majesty's Government in advocating another line.

Count Károlyi's Report has been forwarded to Count Andrassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 449.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 28.)

(No. 455.)
My Lord,

Vienna, July 22, 1879.

NO answer has yet been returned by the Austrian Government to the Russian Circular about the Dobrutcha frontier, but I understand Count Andrassy to have intimated his concurrence in the opinion I had expressed, that the adoption of the proposal by which the Commission should be directed to find a position for a bridge to the east of the banlieu of Silistria would imply the abandonment of the line of frontier recommended by the majority last year.

At the same time I can perceive an unwillingness on the part of the Imperial Government entirely to reject the proposal, which it is thought might be modified so as to render it unobjectionable if the Commission was desired to re-examine the frontier-line suggested last year, keeping in mind the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin.

It is considered that if, as is assumed to be certain, the last year's recommendation was reaffirmed it would be difficult for the Russian Government to persist in their resistance.

I have observed that, although the proposal put into that shape would lose its most objectionable feature, its adoption would not lead to a solution of the difficulty, unless an understanding was come to, that, in the event of the certain disagreement of the Commissioners, the question was to be finally decided by the opinion of the majority of the Cabinets.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 450.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 28.)

(No. 457.) *Vienna, July 24, 1879.*
My Lord,

HAVING received this morning from your Lordship Mr. White's telegram suggesting that the Austrian Government should be requested to intimate to the Government of Roumania that the Powers would expect that the prorogation of the Chambers should not exceed a month, I have asked Baron Orczy whether a communication to this effect could not be made.

He said that Count Andrassy had been greatly opposed to any prorogation of the Chambers taking place before the Jewish question was disposed of, and he would at once ascertain whether his Excellency would not make a communication in the sense I had suggested, as a precaution against a renewed attempt at delay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 451.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 28.)

(No. 458. Confidential.) *Vienna, July 24, 1879.*
My Lord,

M. STOURDZA, the Roumanian Minister of Finance, now on a mission to Berlin, has there made suggestions for the settlement of the Jewish question, upon which the German Government have asked Count Andrassy's opinion.

I understand his Excellency to have expressed doubts whether the proposals would satisfy the just expectations of the Powers, and that he desires to ascertain with greater precision what would be the position of the Jews if they were to be accepted, and he is taking means to clear this up before he pronounces an opinion.

I shall endeavour to ascertain and forward to your Lordship the substance of these proposals, which, however, do not seem to include the general admission to Roumanian citizenship of the Jews born in the Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 452.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 28.)

(No. 459.) *Vienna, July 24, 1879.*
My Lord,

NO accounts have reached the Austrian Government of disturbances having taken place in Bosnia as reported by the newspapers, with the exception of an insignificant resistance offered by some of the inhabitants of the village of Ilum to a party charged with the duty of carrying out the general disarming of the population.

Though there are cases of robbery or brigandage, the general security of the province is believed here to be as satisfactory as could be expected, after a condition of lawlessness of long duration, and it is stated that Servian produce is already finding its way for shipment at the Dalmatian ports.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 453.

Sir John Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 28.)

(No. 369. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, July 22, 1879.*

SINCE I had the honour of writing to your Lordship my despatches Nos. 356 and 359, Confidential, of the 16th and 18th instant, I have spoken to the Roumanian Minister of Finance on the subject of the difficulty which has arisen with respect to the execution of the XLIVth Article of the Berlin Treaty.

M. Stourdza seemed to be fully alive to the importance of the question at issue, and assured me that, personally, he was doing his utmost to arrive at such a solution of the difficulty as would satisfy the Powers principally interested in the matter; and he still hoped, for the sake of his own country, that such a solution might speedily be found.

Public feeling in Roumania, however, was so excited that it would be hopeless for any Government to expect to obtain the requisite majority in Parliament, if they merely proposed to substitute the XLIVth Article of the Berlin Treaty as it now stands for the 7th Article of the Constitution, but he trusted that it might be less impossible to induce a favourable vote, if it were clearly understood that the Powers would be satisfied with an honest recognition on the part of Roumania of the principle of religious liberty recorded in the Treaty, and with the publication simultaneously of a law setting forth the plan to be pursued for the immediate emancipation of some categories of Jews and for the gradual extension to others of the rights and privileges of citizenship.

I said my own impression was that the interested Powers would not be found exacting in matters of detail. Nor did I imagine for a moment that they would insist on the XLIVth Article of the Berlin Treaty being introduced word by word into the Roumanian Constitution; but I felt sure that, as regards the principle of religious liberty embodied in the Treaty, they would certainly not yield; and I thought it was a great pity that the steps now being taken by the Powers to insure the due fulfilment of the proposals of the Congress should be regarded by any party in the light of a menace, as it was clearly of the most vital interest to Roumania that she should not enter upon her independence hampered by difficulties; and her acceptance of what the Powers required would, so far from being prejudicial, most undoubtedly improve her position in the eyes of the world and, at the same time, add to her dignity as a nation.

M. Stourdza acknowledged that this would be the case, and repeated his assurance that he would use his best endeavours to further the views of the Powers; but, he added: "We have greater obstacles to contend against than you imagine, because the existing opposition to any concession being made on the point of emancipation has the support of Russia. She has secret agents at work in Roumania whose object is to instil into the minds of those in authority that so long as they are backed by such a Power as Russia, it is perfectly immaterial whether the recognition of their independence by other Powers is obtained or not. If they will but reject the overtures of the Powers, a Russian Diplomatic Agent shall be at once sent to Bucharest."

I asked M. Stourdza what motive he imagined Russia had for opposing the emancipation.

It was not very easy, he said, to understand her present policy, but he thought, first of all, that she felt it might be necessary for her to do something for the emancipation of her own Jews if those in Roumania were emancipated, and, secondly, that as she was only now becoming aware of the progress which had been made in Roumania during recent years, she feared that further progress could not but tend materially to strengthen the power of Roumania, and so interfere with her own future influence in Bulgaria should she at any time wish to exercise it.

Under these circumstances she would probably do what she could to prevent Roumania from ever becoming a formidable barrier as between herself and that Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 454.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 28.)

(No. 372. Confidential.)
Berlin, July 26, 1879.

My Lord,

M. STOURDZA has not yet been able to come to any arrangement with regard to the purchase of the Roumanian railways. The difficulty still consists, as I pointed out in my despatch No. 358 of the 17th instant, in the refusal of the German Company to allow the direction of the railways to be transferred at once to Bucharest; but when I saw him this afternoon he told me that he was not altogether without hope of coming to an agreement even on this point before he left Berlin, and it was his intention to-day to submit some further proposals to the Company, which he thought might perhaps be acceptable.

I asked M. Stourdza whether the German Government had in any way mixed up this business with the question relating to the emancipation of the Jews, or made the settlement of it a condition of their recognition of Roumania's independence. He said that they had made no such condition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 455.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 28.)

(No. 375. Confidential.)
Berlin, July 13, 1879.

My Lord,

SO many proposals have already been made as to the categories of Jews who should be included in any act of emancipation which may be submitted to the Roumanian Parliament, that I think it may be of interest to your Lordship to have a list of those which are now under the consideration of the German Government, and are being discussed with M. Stourdza.

They include a greater number of categories than those originally submitted by M. Bratiano, and I believe would be accepted by this Government as a basis for the law which, in the event of the Roumanian Government being willing to recognize the principle of religious liberty, laid down in Article XLIV of the Berlin Treaty, would be published simultaneously with their decision, for the purpose of explaining how the principle was to be worked out in detail.

The list of proposals has been given to me confidentially.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

Inclosure in No. 455.

Memorandum.

(Confidentielle.)

LES Israélites nés en Roumanie, et qui ne sont pas sujets étrangers, jouiront des mêmes droits civils que les autres citoyens Roumains; ils auront le droit d'acquérir des immeubles urbains, le droit d'exercer les différentes professions et industries dans quelque localité que ce soit.

2. Jouiront immédiatement des droits civils et politiques de l'admission aux emplois publics, fonctions, et honneurs, ceux des Israélites nés en Roumanie, et n'étant pas sujets étrangers, qui—

(1.) Ont tiré au sort du service militaire, ainsi que ceux qui ont servi sous les drapeaux;

(2.) Ceux qui ont achevé les quatre classes de l'instruction primaire dans une école publique Roumaine ainsi que ceux qui ont obtenu d'une Faculté étrangère un diplôme de docteur, licencié, ou ingénieur, dans quelque spécialité que ce soit;

(3.) Ceux qui ont écrit ou traduit en Roumain un ouvrage scientifique ou littéraire;

(4.) Ceux qui ont fondé, et ceux qui possèdent, un établissement industriel;

(5.) Ceux qui ont fait des donations aux établissements de bienfaisance ou autres;

(6.) Ceux qui possèdent des immeubles urbains donnant un revenu de 1,200 fr. au minimum, somme correspondante au cens réclamé pour le droit d'électeur au deuxième collége, conformément à l'Article 60 de la Constitution Roumaine;

(7.) Ceux qui, étant commerçants ou industriels, paient à l'Etat un impôt direct de 80 piastres, somme correspondante au cens réclamé pour le droit d'électeur au troisième collége, conformément à l'Article 61 de la Constitution Roumaine.

Ceux des Israélites nés en Roumanie, et n'étant pas sujets étrangers, qui ne sont pas compris dans les catégories précédentes, pourront réclamer la qualité de citoyen Roumain par déclaration faite en personne, ou par mandataire spécial muni d'une procuration authentique à la Municipalité, du lieu de leur domicile, dans le cours d'une année après la promulgation de cette loi.

Ceux qui n'ont pas atteint l'âge de la majorité auront le même droit dans le cours d'une année après la majorité.

3. Les Israélites nés en Roumanie, et se trouvant sous une protection étrangère, pourront opter en faveur de la qualité de citoyen Roumain dans le cours d'une année après la promulgation de cette loi s'ils se désistent de la protection étrangère.

La déclaration d'option sera faite à la Municipalité du lieu de domicile.

4. Les autres Israélites auront droit à la naturalisation.

5. Les nationaux des Puissances seront traités sur le pied d'une parfaite égalité, sans distinction de religion.

6. La propriété rurale ne pourra être acquise que par ceux qui ont obtenu les droits politiques.

Constitution Roumaine.

Art. 58. Le corps électoral est composé dans chaque district de quatre collèges.

Art. 59. Sont électeurs du premier collége ceux qui ont un revenu foncier de 300 ducats (3,600 fr.) ou plus.

Art. 60. Sont électeurs du deuxième collége ceux qui ont un revenu foncier de 300 ducats, en bas jusqu'à 100 ducats (1,200 fr.), inclusif.

Art. 61. Sont électeurs du troisième collége les commerçants et les industriels qui paient à l'Etat un impôt direct de 80 piastres.

Art. 62. Ces trois colléges élisent directement.

Art. 63. Sont électeurs du quatrième collége, tous ceux qui paient un impôt direct à l'Etat quelque minime qu'il soit, et qui n'entre dans aucune catégorie d'en haut.

No. 456.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 28, 3 A.M.)

(No. 36.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, July 26, 1879.*

AT the meeting of the Commission to-day the Turkish Commissioners adhered to the [group omitted, ? resolutions] passed at the last meeting, declaring only that the action of the Commission in the matter of calling in Turkish troops should not be incompatible with the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin. The Austrian and German Delegates accepted that part of Resolution No. 2 which asserts obligatory character of an unanimous vote, and I followed the Italian Commissioner in accepting the same clause, subject to the approval of our Governments. I trust your Lordship will not withhold that approval.

The competence of the Commission was therefore declared to be established, and the telegraph question was brought forward.

After three hours' discussion, meeting adjourned to Monday afternoon. It is evident that the Russian and Italian Commissioners will remain in a minority on the four resolutions moved by French Commissioner. The latter affirms that the Sultan should appoint such telegraphic and postal officials as he appoints them in other provinces; that appointments which belong to central administration of posts and telegraphs should be made in this province in [? office of] Governor-General; and that the latter is by rights Director-General of the several services in Eastern Roumelia.

He superintends, controls, and directs their working, and exercises a disciplinary power over the officials.

The Austrian, German, and Turkish Commissioners adhere to these views, and, as they do not much differ from the opinion of Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, I shall go in the majority, especially as the Austrian and French Commissioners insist privately on necessity of maintaining as much as possible, under present circumstances, the power of the Sultan in this province.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 457.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 28, 3 A.M.)

(No. 37.) *Philippopolis, July* 27, 1879.
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my despatch No. 12 of the 24th June, my proposed motion on the Greek petition was placed on the order of the day at the meeting held yesterday.

(Not sent to Embassy.)

No. 458.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 28, 3 A.M.)

(No. 38. Confidential.) *Philippopolis, July* 27, 1879.
(Telegraphic.)

THE Director of Finance has persisted to me that the Governor-General will still succeed in obtaining the consent of the Porte to Kessiakoff's appointment.

I have reason to believe that the Russian Commissioner undertook his last journey to Constantinople with that object, and [? thought] that he would effect it personally.

(Sent to Embassy.)

No. 459.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 28, 3 A.M.)

(No. 39.) *Philippopolis, July* 27, 1879.
(Telegraphic.)

THE local Bulgarian paper states that a mounted national guard, composed of 180 men, and equipped as well as any regular cavalry (no doubt with Russian arms), has recently been formed at Haskeui.

General Vitalis believes this to be true. I have advised him to telegraph for official information.

I learn to-day that an immense addition to the 120 cartridges originally given by the Russian authorities to each gymnastic, a further quantity of 300 per head, is being distributed.

No. 460.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 28, 8 A.M.)

(No. 580. Secret.) *Constantinople, July* 27, 1879.
(Telegraphic.)

COUNCIL was held last night at the Palace. Sultan submitted to it his scheme for Ministerial responsibility, which was rejected by Grand Vizier, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and three other Ministers, as being insufficient to give Ministry the necessary powers. Sultan has sent to tell me that, not being able to come to come to an agreement with his Ministers, he will probably have to change them,

and "to send for somebody from without to be President of the Council;" but that he gave me the most solemn assurances that there would be no change of policy as regards England. He wished for my advice. I replied that I urgently advised His Majesty to retain Grand Vizier, and to accept his conditions in his own interests and in those of his Empire; but if he had determined to change his Grand Vizier I hoped that he would replace him by a man who enjoyed public confidence. I suggested Safvet as the best man under the circumstances.

Sultan also asked my advice about Greece. He says he has sounded French Ambassador, and finds that France is ready to yield upon the question of Janina, but demands as compensation for Greece much more than he could possibly give up. He is willing, he says, to cede to Greece districts inhabited by a majority of Greeks, but he cannot run the risk of offending the Albanians and causing insurrection. His Majesty asked me whether I could bring about an arrangement. I told him that I could not interfere, and I gave him the same advice that I gave Minister for Foreign Affairs, as reported in my telegram No. 539, approved by your Lordship.

No. 461.

Vice-Consul Brophy to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bourgas, July* 27, 1879.

RUSSIAN evacuation of Eastern Roumelia may be considered as completed. Last troopship left Bourgas this afternoon. No Russian troops now remaining in this province.

No. 462.

The Marquis of Salisbury to General Humley.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 28, 1879, 2 P.M.

YOURS No. 17.

Your proposal to place officers at service of Commissioner to proceed to frontier and complete map is approved.

No. 463.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 28, 5 P.M.)

(No. 581.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July* 28, 1879, 1 P.M.

SULTAN sent yesterday to ask me whether the reports which had appeared in newspapers that the British fleet is coming to Besika Bay were true, and requested me, if such were the case, to beg Her Majesty's Government to counter-order it, as the appearance of the fleet there at this moment might give rise to vexatious misrepresentations, and cause embarrassment to the Porte. Minister for Foreign Affairs told me this morning that His Majesty was very anxious on this subject. He trusted that Her Majesty's Government would yield to his wishes. The fleet might anchor anywhere else in the Archipelago, but there were political traditions connected with the name of Besika Bay which made it desirable for the fleet not to go there for the present.

No. 464.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 977.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 28, 1879.

THE information which has reached Her Majesty's Government of the fall of Hairedin Pasha has caused them very great regret.

Should the Sultan show any sorrow for this most ill-judged measure, your

Excellency should seize the opportunity to impress earnestly upon His Majesty that, in order to lessen the bad impression which it has produced, he must prove unmistakably to the world that he has not abandoned the alliance of Turkey with this country, and that he will best do this by immediately taking some decided step forward in the path of reform.

An opening for so doing might be afforded if the Sultan would consent to nominate Baker Pasha as Commandant of the gendarmerie in Kurdistan. But if any good can possibly be effected, it can only be through the most urgent and vigorous representations on the part of your Excellency.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 465.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 979.) *Foreign Office, July 28, 1879.*
Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram of the 28th instant, representing the strong objections entertained by the Sultan to the presence at this moment of a British squadron in Besika Bay.

In reply, I have authorized your Excellency to state to the Sultan that the fleet will not be sent there until further orders.

The dismissal of Hairedin Pasha by His Majesty will be regarded as a declaration on his part against carrying into execution the reforms he has pledged himself to introduce into his dominions, and it is absolutely necessary, therefore, that he show his earnestness at this critical moment by the adoption of some resolution, such as that with regard to the gendarmerie, on which I have given instructions to your Excellency in a previous despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 466.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major-General Hmuley.

(No. 38.) *Foreign Office, July 28, 1879.*
Sir,

THE proposal made in your telegram of the 26th instant, to place a party of officers at the disposal of the Boundary Commission who should proceed to the western frontier of Bulgaria in order to complete the map which had been promised by the Russians, meets with my approval, and I have so informed you by telegraph this afternoon.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 467.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. Watsham.

(No. 384.) *Foreign Office, July 28, 1879.*
Sir,

BARON VON DEN BRINCKEN communicated to me on the 22nd instant a summary of the paper inclosed in your despatch No. 375 of the 26th instant, defining the categories of Jews, to whom, according to the views expressed at Berlin by the Roumanian Minister of Finance, civil and political rights might be accorded in Roumania. In reply to his inquiry whether I considered the proposed scheme satisfactory, I replied in the negative. It seemed to me to be merely an act of grace towards certain individuals, not the acceptance of a principle. He said that the same view was entertained by the German Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 468.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 188.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 28, 1879, 11·45 P.M.*

YOURS No. 581.

The fleet shall not go to Besika Bay until further orders; but press upon the Sultan the absolute necessity of showing his earnestness in reform at this critical moment by the step I suggested in my telegram of to-day's date. Dismissal of Hairedin will be looked on as a declaration against reform.

No. 469.

Captain Anderson, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 16.)
My Lord, *Nisch, July 2, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 9 of the 15th June, I have now the honour to inclose herewith copies of the five Annexes referred to in Protocol No. 10.

I also transmit copies of Protocols Nos. 12, 13, 14, and 15, recording the proceedings of the meetings of the Commission on the 30th May, 6th, 12th, and 13th June. Notes of these meetings were forwarded to your Lordship with my despatch No. 9, the notes of the meeting of the 12th June being embodied with those of the 13th June. Copy of the Annex to Protocol No. 15, giving technical details, will be forwarded as soon as I can procure it.

I also transmit notes of the proceedings of the Commission at the meeting on the 20th June, drawn up by Lieutenant Ross of Bladensburg, after the meeting. The Protocol of this meeting has been signed to-day.

On the 17th June the Commission continued the delimitation of the Servo-Bulgarian frontier from the point selected as Mount Badocina, on the Kodza Balkan. The marking of the frontier, following the crest of the Balkans to the ancient eastern frontier of the Principality of Servia, about 6 miles south of the Kula of Smiljova Cuka, was completed on the 20th June.

I have the satisfaction of informing your Lordship that the whole of the new Servo-Bulgarian frontier, as marked by the Commission, has been accepted by the Commissioners.

The Commission arrived at Nisch on the 22nd June; and, up to the present date, the preparation of the record, drawings, and documents referring to the recent delimination of the Servo-Bulgarian frontier, has been in active progress.

The Commission have made arrangements to leave Nisch to-morrow, the 3rd July, for the Poljanica-Planina, to commence the delimitation of the Servo-Turkish frontier, northward from Crni Carmen, up to which point the frontier was marked last year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. ANDERSON, *Captain, R.E.,*
Her Majesty's Commissioner.

Inclosure 1 in No. 469.

Annexes au Protocole No. 10.—*Séance tenue à Toplidol le* 24 *Mai*, 1879.

Annexe No. 1.

Son Excellence Nazif Pacha, Gouverneur-Général du Vilayet de Kossovo, à son Excellence Yahya Pacha, Commissaire Ottoman.

(Résumé. Traduction.)
(Télégraphique.) *Le* 10 *Mai*, 1879 (v.s.).

Il résulte d'un rapport du Caïmacam de Novi-Bazar, que le Maire de Banja (Serbie), accompagné de 500 à 600 personnes, a voulu aujourd'hui tracer une ligne autour des dix-neuf villages de l'arrondissement de Kopaonik, district de Novi-Bazar, qui, non-délimités encore, se trouvent actuellement sous l'occupation des Serbes. Les habitants et les intéressés de ces villages se sont décidés à s'y opposer formellement jusqu'à ce que la Commission Européenne fixe la frontière.

Afin de prévenir tout rixe, ainsi que les fâcheuses conséquences qui pourraient résulter de cet état de choses, il est nécessaire que vous vouliez bien faire immédiatement les démarches nécessaires auprès de la Commission Européenne, et faire prendre les mesures en conséquence.

Déclaration de M. le Commissaire Ottoman.

Le Commissaire Ottoman a l'honneur de communiquer ci-près à MM. les Commissaires des Grandes Puissances le télégramme qu'il vient de recevoir du Gouverneur-Général du Vilayet de Kossovo, et les prie de vouloir bien le prendre en considération particulière aux fins requises.

Toplidol, le $\frac{13}{25}$ *Mai*, 1879.

Annexe No. 2.

(Télégraphique.)
Son Excellence M. Ristich, Président du Conseil, Belgrade.

Le Commissaire Ottoman communique à la Commission le télégramme suivant (voir Annexe No. 1) du Vali de Kossovo, d'où il résulterait que des difficultés se seraient élevées entre le Maire de Banja (Serbie), district du Kopaonik, et les habitants limitrophes du district de Novi-Bazar. En portant cet avis à la connaissance de votre Excellence la Commission exprime le vœu qu'autant que possible il ne s'élève sur cette frontière aucune difficulté de nature à arrêter ses travaux. La Commission informe le Vali de Kossovo que ses travaux commenceront dans cinq ou six semaines, et exprime le même vœu.

Le Président,
(Signé) AUBARET.

Annexe No. 3.

(Télégraphique.)
Son Excellence Nazif Pacha, Vali de Kossovo.

La Commission Internationale a été informé du télégramme de votre Excellence au Général Yahya Pacha. Elle n'a pas à s'ingérer dans les affaires intérieures des deux Gouvernements, mais en portant votre communication à la connaissance du Gouvernement Serbe, elle a exprimé le vœu qu'elle vous exprime à vous-même, à savoir; que la frontière Albanaise ne soit autant que possible le théâtre d'aucun désordre capable d'arrêter les travaux de la Commission, lesquels commenceront probablement dans cinq ou six semaines.

Le Président,
(Signé) AUBARET.

Annexe No. 4.

Déclaration de M. le Commissaire de Russie.

Dans la séance du $\frac{13}{25}$ Mai M. le Commissaire Ottoman ayant présenté aux Membres de la Commission un télégramme de son Excellence Nazif Pacha, Vali de Kossovo, qui, sur la foi d'un rapport du Caïmacam de Novi-Bazar, se plaint des actes des autorités Serbes limitrophes, désire que la Commission Internationale fasse prendre des mesures en conséquence.

Le Commissaire de Russie trouve que la teneur de ce télégramme touchant à une affaire qui concerne les deux pays limitrophes, celle-ci ne doit et ne peut être autrement aplanie que par un accord mutuel entre les deux Gouvernements. Par conséquent, le Vali de Kossovo ayant à informer les autorités limitrophes Serbes, le Commissaire de Russie ne peut s'expliquer les motifs qui ont amené son Excellence à faire cette communication à la Commission Internationale de Délimitation, laquelle, de l'avis du Colonel Baron de Kaulbars, n'est en aucune façon compétente pour émettre un avis quelconque à ce sujet, et encore moins à formuler un jugement sur cette question. La Commission est intéressée à pouvoir travailler sans encombres sur la frontière Serbo-Turque, mais la sécurité des Commissaires et l'éloignement de tout ce qui pourrait entraver ou ralentir les travaux est entièrement à la charge et sous la responsabilité des deux Gouvernements limitrophes. Par conséquent, M. le Baron Kaulbars propose de transmettre sans aucun commentaire le télégramme *in extenso* du Vali de Kossovo à M. Ristich, Président du Conseil des Ministres de Serbie. Le Délégué de Russie suppose que son Excellence Nazif Pacha a communiqué les faits dont il se plaint à la Sublime Porte et d'autre part, il ne doute pas que le Gouvernement Serbe, informé de ce qui s'est passé à la frontière, agira en conséquence et sans oublier la sécurité de la Commission Internationale.

La Commission n'ayant pas agréé cette proposition, et quelques-uns de ses membres ayant cru nécessaire, pour assurer la sécurité des Commissaires et aussi la possibilité de travailler sans encombres à la frontière Serbo-Turque, d'ajouter au télégramme adressé au Gouvernement Serbe le vœux qu'il ne s'élève sur cette frontière aucune difficulté de nature à arrêter ses travaux, *le Colonel Kaulbars* a objecté qu'un télégramme contenant une semblable phrase et transmis seulement au Gouvernement Serbe, sans communication à la Sublime Porte, pourrait donner à entendre que d'après l'avis de MM. les Commissaires le tort dans le conflit survenu à la frontière est du côté de l'Administration Serbe, ce qui implique un jugement que la Commission n'est pas appelée à rendre, et qu'elle ne pourrait en toute justice formuler qu'après avoir entendu les deux parties.

Le Colonel Kaulbars propose donc d'envoyer le télégramme précité au Gouvernement Serbe et à la Sublime Porte, en priant en même temps le Commissaire Ottoman de vouloir bien donner connaissance de cette décision à son Excellence le Vali de Kossovo. Cet avis du Colonel Kaulbars n'a cependant pas été accepté à cause de l'observation faite pas M. le Président, appuyé par la majorité, qui n'a pas cru être en droit de communiquer directement avec la Sublime Porte, tandis que son Excellence M. Ristich l'a autorisé à s'adresser directement à lui pour toutes les questions concernant la Commission. M. le Président craignait également un retard en s'adressant à la Sublime Porte plutôt qu'au Vali de Kossovo. A son regret, le Colonel Kaulbars croit qu'il n'est pas possible de profiter de cette autorisation de M. Ristich dans une question ayant un caractère international, et pour arriver à un but pratique M. le Colonel Kaulbars propose que chaque Commissaire s'adresse au Représentant de son pays à Constantinople et à Belgrade, ou bien que la Commission, déclarant ne pouvoir s'ingérer dans la question traitée dans le télégramme du Vali de Kossovo, prie M. le Président d'envoyer de sa part un télégramme privé à son Excellence M. Ristich.

La Commission n'ayant accepté aucune des propositions de M. le Commissaire de Russie, celui-ci a refusé d'accepter les deux télégrammes à son Excellence M. Ristich et à son Excellence le Vali de Kossovo, lesquels ont réuni la majorité des voix. Ce refus est fondé sur ce que cette décision par la suite peut faire parvenir à un but pratique et parce qu'elle peut faire supposer une idée d'infériorité politique des droits du Gouvernement Serbe vis-à-vis de la Sublime Porte.

(Signé) BARON KAULBARS, *Colonel.*

Annexe No. 5.

Déclaration de M. le Commissaire de Serbie.

M. le Président,

Le 12 de ce mois (v.s.), sur la demande du Commissaire de la Sublime Porte, la Commission a été convoquée et informée du télégramme du Vali de Kossovo, lequel télégramme, basé sur un rapport du Caïmacam de Novi-Bazar, contenait: que le Maire de Banja (Serbie), accompagné de 500 ou 600 personnes a voulu tracer une haie autour de dix-neuf villages de l'arrondissement de Kopaonik, district de Novi-Bazar, qui, non-délimités encore, se trouvent actuellement sous l'occupation des Serbes, et que les habitants et les intéressés de ces villages se sont décidés à s'y opposer formellement jusqu'à ce que la Commission Européenne fixe la frontière. Pour prévenir tout conflit regrettable sur la frontière du dit district, le Commissaire Ottoman a été chargé de faire immédiatement des démarches nécessaires auprès de la Commission Européenne, pour qu'elle prenne les mesures en conséquence.

La Commission prenant en considération le communiqué sus-mentionné, après une longue délibération, a décidé de s'adresser au Premier Ministre de Serbie, et au Vali de Kossovo, pour qu'ils prennent des mesures nécessaires, qu'il ne s'élève sur la frontière aucune difficulté de nature à arrêter ses travaux.

La Serbie étant un Etat indépendant, je ne pourrais pas m'associer, M. le Président, à la décision de la Commission, et je suis d'avis que s'il y avait quelques désordres sur la frontière ils sont de nature tout-à-fait internationale, et que si la Commission a cru qu'il est de sa compétence de s'en adresser au Ministre de Serbie, il a fallu en même temps s'adresser à la Sublime Porte, et non pas au Vali de Kossovo; et si on trouvait qu'il était plus expéditif de s'adresser au Vali de Kossovo, Nazif Pacha, il n'était pas moins expéditif de s'adresser en même temps au Commandant du Corps d'Armée Serbe de la Morava, M. le Colonel Hervatovitz, qui sont tous les deux en relation officielle pour la sécurité de la frontière. Je pense que ce n'est que de cette manière que l'on peut se trouver sur le point d'égalité.

J'ai l'honneur de vous prier, M. le Président, de vouloir bien porter cette déclaration à la connaissance de la Commission, et de l'insérer dans les Protocoles.

Le Colonel,
(Signé) ZDRAVKOWITZ.

Tra, le 16 *Mai* (v.s.), 1879.
M. le Président de la Commission pour la Délimitation de la Serbie, Consul-Général &c., &c., M. G. Aubaret,

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Inclosure 2 in No. 469.

Protocole No. 12.

A TRN, le Vendredi, 30 Mai, 1879, la Commission s'est réunie pour la douzième fois.

Étaient présents les mêmes membres qu'à la séance précédente.

La séance étant ouverte, *le Président* a donné lecture d'un télégramme de son Excellence M. Ristich annonçant la mise à la disposition de la Commission pour tout le temps de ses travaux de M. le Dr. Dimitrievitch. La Commission décide que des remerciements seront télégraphiés à son Excellence M. le Premier Ministre.

M. le Président donne ensuite lecture d'une lettre de M. le Président de la Commission Internationale de Délimitation de la Bulgarie, donnant communication d'une décision nouvelle prise le 21 Avril, 1879, par la susdite Commission, au sujet de la délimitation de la frontière Bulgaro-Serbe. (Voir Annexe No. 1).

La discussion étant ouverte sur cette communication, il s'agit d'abord de savoir si les travaux de délimitation de la partie de la frontière Serbo-Bulgare déjà plus qu'à moitié terminée par les soins de la Commission de Serbie, seront par elles abandonnés ou continués.

Les voix étant recueillies, il est décidé à l'unanimité que les travaux seront continués.

Sur la question de savoir si les dits travaux de délimitation de la frontière Bulgaro-Serbe seront oui ou non transmis à la Commission de Bulgarie, *M. le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne* se réfère à ses instructions qui ont été communiquées par son prédécesseur lors de la première séance (Protocole No. 1.)

M. le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie donne lecture d'instructions à lui adressées par son Gouvernement, où il est dit qu'ensuite d'un accord entre l'Angleterre, la France, l'Italie, et l'Autriche-Hongrie, il doit être donné communication à la Commission de Bulgarie des travaux exécutés par la Commission de Serbie sur la frontière Bulgaro-Serbe.

Il est décidé, en conséquence, qu'il sera transmis à la Commission de Bulgarie comme simple formalité le duplicata des travaux exécutés sur la frontière Bulgaro-Serbe par la seule Commission de Serbie.

La Commission décide enfin qu'il sera répondu par son Président à celui de la Commission de Bulgarie pour l'informer de cette résolution, et lui faire connaître en même temps le regret unanime de la Commission de Serbie d'avoir été si tardivement informée de la susdite décision du 21 Avril, 1879 (Annexe No. 2).

M. le Commissaire Ottoman déclare que dans le but de faciliter le travail de la délimitation et d'aller au devant des désirs exprimés par MM. les Commissaires dans la séance précédente, le Major Hamid Bey, l'Adjudant-Major Avni Bey, et deux autres officiers d'Etat-Major, seront délégués pour assister les quatre topographes Russes qui doivent dresser pour la Commission le croquis de la frontière à délimiter de la Poljanica au Kamlug. Le Général Yahya Pacha ajoute qu'il convient en même temps de déterminer d'avance le nombre de kilomètres que des deux côtés du territoire Ottoman et Serbe les topographes doivent parcourir pour faire les croquis.

La Commission accepte avec reconnaissance la proposition de M. le Commissaire Ottoman. Les détails de la levée des croquis et autres sont laissés aux soins de la Sous-Commission Topographique.

La séance est levée.

Fait à Trn, les jour, mois, et an que dessus.

(Signé) V. ALTEN.
BILIMEK.
G. AUBARET.
S. ANDERSON.
A. VELINI.
A. KAULBARS.
ZDRAVKOVITCH.
YAHYA.

Annexe 1 au Protocole No. 12.

M. le Président, *Constantinople, le* 10 *Mai*, 1879.

Dans le courant du mois d'Octobre 1878 vous avez, au nom de la Commission de Délimitation de la Serbie, offert à la Commission Européenne de Délimitation de la Bulgarie de vous charger de la fixation de la frontière commune à la Serbie et à la Bulgarie. La Commission de Bulgarie pensa que l'acceptation de cette offre ne soulèverait aucune difficulté, et elle vous répondit en ce sens. Toutefois le Commissaire Anglais ayant fait observer que, d'après les instructions qui lui avaient été remises par son Gouvernement, le tracé de la frontière Serbo-Bulgare devait comme formalité être approuvé par la Commission de Délimitation de la Bulgarie, il fut résolu que chaque Commissaire en référerait à son Gouvernement, et la question fut laissée en suspens jusqu'au 21 Avril, 1879, où elle fut de nouveau agitée.

Après une courte discussion la Commission adopta à l'unanimité la résolution suivante, en exécution de laquelle j'ai l'honneur de vous écrire:—

"Pour se conformer aux stipulations de l'Article II du Traité de Berlin, la Commission Européenne de Délimitation de la Bulgarie doit—nonobstant la décision prise par elle le 21 Octobre, 1878, de se dessaisir entre les mains de la Commission de Serbie du travail effectif de la délimitation de la frontière Serbo-Bulgare—insérer dans l'instrument diplomatique réglant les limites de la Principauté de Bulgarie le tracé de la susdite frontière Serbo-Bulgare; il lui incombe également le soin de soumettre le dit tracé à l'approbation des Puissances.

"La Commission décide qu'elle s'abstiendra de contrôler l'œuvre de la Commission de Serbie, et qu'en incorporant cette œuvre dans son propre travail, elle en laissera la responsabilité à ses auteurs.

"Communication de la présente résolution sera faite au Président de la Commission de Serbie."

Je dois également porter à votre connaissance, M. le Président, que la Commission de la Délimitation de la Bulgarie, invitée par plusieurs des Puissances cosignataires

à terminer ses travaux s'il est possible vers le 1/13 Juillet, 1879, quittera Constantinople Lundi, 12 courant, et qu'elle y sera de retour vers le 19 Juillet si elle se conforme à l'itinéraire qu'elle a arrêté. Pour accomplir sa tâche la Commission devra avant de se séparer rédiger l'acte diplomatique réglant les limites de la Bulgarie, y compris la frontière Serbo-Bulgare; elle aura donc besoin pour satisfaire à la demande des Puissances d'avoir alors entre ses mains le travail qu'elle doit enregistrer, et elle m'a chargé, M. le Président, de vous manifester ce désir.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) J. C. LEMOYNE,
Président de la Commission de Délimitation de la Bulgarie.

A M. le Président de la Commission de Délimitation
de la Serbie.

Annexe 2 au Protocole No. 12.

Pirot, le 1er Juin, 1879.

M. le Président,

J'ai reçu la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire le 10 Mai dernier, et je me suis empressé d'en communiquer le contenu à la Commission de Serbie, qui se trouvait en ce moment à Trn.

La Commission a pris à l'unanimité la résolution suivante, que je suis chargé d'avoir l'honneur de vous communiquer:—

"La Commission Internationale de Délimitation de la Serbie a reçu le 27 Mai à Trn, au milieu de ses travaux, communication de la décision nouvelle prise le 22 Avril, 1879, par la Commission Internationale de Délimitation de la Bulgarie, au sujet de la délimitation de la frontière Bulgaro-Serbe. La Commission de Serbie est unanime à regretter que cette communication, transmise à la date du 16 Mai seulement, lui soit si tardivement parvenue. Elle transmettra à la Commission de Bulgarie le duplicata de ses travaux sur la dite frontière Bulgaro-Serbe."

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) AUBARET,
Président de la Commission de Délimitation de la Serbie.

Inclosure 3 in No. 469.

Protocole No. 13.

AU village de Ségusa, situé sur la chaussée de Pirot-Sophia, le Vendredi, 6 Juin, la Commission s'est réunie pour la troisième fois.

Étaient présents les mêmes membres qu'à la séance précédente.

La séance étant ouverte, il s'est élevé une discussion sur la question de savoir à partir de quel point de la chaussée de Pirot-Sophia seraient mesurés les 1,000 mètres prescrits par l'Article XXXVI du Traité de Berlin.

M. le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie s'appuyant sur ce fait que la Carte de l'État-Major Autrichien indique le village de Ségusa et le Han (auberge) qui en dépend comme étant exactement situés sur la route, est d'avis que pour se conformer à l'intention du Congrès de Berlin, il convient de compter les 1,000 mètres à partir du Han.

Mais *M. le Commissaire d'Allemagne* ayant fait remarquer que le village n'est pas placé sur la route et qu'il existe à son extrémité ouest un moulin dépendant de Ségusa, tandis que le Han est situé à l'extrémité est, la Commission juge équitable de partager la distance qui sépare le Han du moulin et de partir de ce point milieu pour compter les 1,000 mètres.

Passant à la délimitation de la partie de frontière situés entre le point de la chaussée où se terminent les 1,000 mètres et le Stol, *M. le Commissaire de Serbie* propose de diriger la ligne de frontière à l'est du village de Goïndol, et s'appuie pour cela sur les trois raisons suivantes:—

1. Que dans les travaux de délimitation on s'est toujours appliqué à avoir autant que possible pour frontière, soit un cours d'eau soit une crête de montagne, c'est-à-dire,

une ligne naturelle, et que la ligne indiquée par lui s'approche le plus d'une ligne naturelle.

2. Que d'après le Traité de Berlin qu'a marqué la délimitation d'après la Carte de l'État-Major Autrichien, le village de Goïndol doit être laissé à la Serbie.

3. Que si le Traité avait eu l'intention de laisser à la Bulgarie le susdit village de Goïndol, le nombre de mètres à prendre sur la route auraient été comptés à partir de Goïndol et non de Ségusa.

C'est pour ces motifs que M. le Commissaire de Serbie soutient que la frontière doit passer à l'est du village de Goïndol.

M. le Commissaire de Russie est d'un avis contraire, et considérant que la ligne droite venant du Stol au point de la chaussée laisse en Bulgarie les villages de Goïndol, Planinitsa, Derjina Gornia, et Tsarivdol, mais que le village Goïndol sur la carte Autrichienne est laissé en Serbie, et que la ligne droite est peu pratique en terrain habité, propose une ligne qui, laissant à la Serbie les deux villages de Tsarivdol et Planinitsa, et en plus une large bande de terrain d'environ 12 kilom. carrés non compensée laisse en revanche à la Bulgarie, Goïndol. Il déclare en outre que si sa proposition n'est point acceptée, il se verra contraint de réclamer la ligne droite, partant du Stol pour aboutir au point situé sur la chaussée.

La Commission consultée, considérant que la ligne proposée par M. le Commissaire de Russie est à la fois aussi naturelle que possible et rapprochée de la ligne droite, adopte cette ligne comme étant la plus équitable.

Sur la question de savoir quelle sera la direction de la frontière entre le point marqué sur la chaussée Pirot-Sophia et le Vidlic-Planina, le point où doit aboutir la dite frontière sur le Vidlic-Planina n'étant indiqué ni dans le texte du Traité ni sur la carte, *M. le Commissaire d'Italie* propose de prendre le sommet le plus élevé du Mont Vidlic.

M. le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie met pour condition à l'acceptation de ce point qu'il soit possible en prenant pour départ de la ligne qui doit joindre directement à Radocina, la dite ligne passe entre les villages Doïkinci et Sénakos.

Le sommet proposé par M. le Major Vélini remplissant ces conditions est accepté.

La séance est levée.

Fait à Ségusa, les jour, mois, et an que dessus.

(Signé) V. ALTEN.
BLUMEK.
G. AUBARET.
S. ANDERSON.
A. VELINI.
A. KAULBARS.
ZDRAVKOVITCH.
YAHYA.

Inclosure 4 in No. 469.

Protocole No. 14.

AU village de Slavinia, le Jeudi, 12 Juin, la Commission s'est réunie pour la quatorzième fois.

Étaient présents les mêmes membres qu'à la séance précédente.

Le Mont Radocina indiqué par le Traité d'après la Carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien, ayant été vainement recherché à plusieurs reprises par la Commission, soit par interrogations de paysans soit par des reconnaissances, celle-ci s'est réunie pour prendre une décision à ce sujet.

M. le Commissaire d'Italie propose que la situation du point susnommé étant relevée avec toute la précision que permet la Carte Autrichienne, soit rapportée sur le levé topographique Russe, lequel ne fait point mention du Mont Radocina. Il est d'ailleurs bien entendu que pour se conformer à la lettre comme à l'esprit du Traité, le point qui sera appelé Radocina devra être un mont situé dans la crête du Kodja Balkan.

La Commission accepte la proposition de M. le Major Velini et le charge,

conjointement avec M. le Commissaire d'Allemagne, à faire le travail dont il vient d'être question, afin de le soumettre à son approbation ultérieure.

La séance est levée.

Fait à Slavinia, les jour, mois, et an que dessus.

(Signé) v. ALTEN.
BILIMEK.
G. AUBARET.
S. ANDERSON.
A. VELINI.
A. KAULBARS.
ZDRAVKOVITCH.
YAHYA.

Inclosure 5 in No. 469.

Protocole No. 15.

A SLAVINIA, le Vendredi, 13 Juin, 1879, la Commission s'est réunie pour la quinzième fois.

Étaient présents les mêmes membres qu'à la séance précédente.

M. le Commissaire d'Italie rend compte du travail qu'il a fait avec M. le Commissaire d'Allemagne pour se conformer à la décision prise hier par la Commission et désigne sur le levé Russe un point *A*, qui leur paraît réunir les conditions désirées par la Commission pour représenter le Mont Radocina. (Voir Annexe No. 1.)

Il s'engage alors une discussion sur l'acceptation du susdit point *A*.

M. le Commissaire de Serbie n'est point disposé à l'accepter, et il objecte pour cela que les cartes n'étant pas exactes, aucun point ne saurait coïncider avec le point marqué Radocina du Traité de Berlin. M. le Colonel Zdravkovitch propose en conséquence de prendre pour point de Radocina celui qui serait donné dans la ligne des Balkans par la bissectrice d'un angle formé comme suit: le sommet de l'angle étant un poteau placé sur la crête du Mont Vidlic, ses deux côtés suivraient, l'un la ligne dirigée sur le point *A*, et l'autre irait aboutir en un lieu qui, sur le témoignage de plusieurs paysans, la plupart du village de Sénakos se nommerait Radocina. Un moyen terme semblable a été déjà employé au village de Ségusa quand on y a mesuré les 1,000 mètres sur la chaussée de Pirot-Sophia.

M. le Commissaire de Russie fait remarquer que le lieu désigné par les paysans comme étant Radocina est un champ et non un mont; ne saurait être accepté, car le Traité fait positivement mention du Mont Radocina.

M. le Commissaire d'Allemagne, d'accord avec ses collègues, dit ne pouvoir accepter la proposition de M. le Colonel Zdravkovitch parce que le lieu nommé par lui Radocina, sur lequel elle est appuyée, ne correspond en aucune façon à l'esprit du Traité, c'est-à-dire ni à la distance exigée à partir de Vidlic-Planina, ni aux conditions de situation dans le Kodja Balkan, ni enfin à la clause prévue et formellement énoncée que le village de Sénakos doit rester à la Bulgarie.

M. le Commissaire d'Italie objecte à son tour que si la ligne proposée par M. le Colonel Zdravkovitch était acceptée, le village de Slavinia qui, d'après le tracé de la carte officielle, doit rester à la Bulgarie, passerait du côté de la Serbie.

M. le Commissaire de Serbie répond à ces objections que s'il y a effectivement un champ au lieu désigné comme Radocina par les paysans, il y a aussi un mont un peu plus haut que le champ; or, il est possible que ce mont se nomme également Radocina. Quant à l'objection du village de Slavinia, elle ne peut être prise en considération, puisque Slavinia n'est point mentionné dans le Traité.

M. le Colonel Zdravkovitch demande en conséquence que les travaux soient momentanément suspendus et que chacun de Messieurs les Commissaires en réfère à son Gouvernement. Cette proposition étant rejetée, il est décidé que les travaux ne seront pas suspendus.

Passant à la deuxième proposition de M. le Commissaire de Serbie, la Commission décide qu'elle la rejette parce que, d'après l'inspection de la carte, elle n'est pas acceptable, et aux yeux de la Commission elle ne correspond à aucune condition du Traité.

Il reste alors à voter sur le point *A* indiqué par MM. Velini et Alten, et ce point est accepté.

Sur la question de savoir de quelle façon il sera procédé à la délimitation depuis

Vidlič-Planina jusqu'au point *A* (Mont Radocina), la Commission adopte en principe la ligne droite.

La séance est levée.

Fait à Slavinia les jour, mois, et an que dessus.

(Signé) v. ALTEN.
BILIMEK.
G. AUBARET.
S. ANDERSON.
A. VELINI.
A. KAULBARS.
ZDRAVKOVITCH.
YAHYA.

Inclosure 6 in No. 469.

Notes of a Meeting held at Nisch, June 29, 1879.

ALL the Commissioners were present except the Turkish Pasha, who, being indisposed, deputed his Secretary, Gabriel Effendi, to be present, and to bring him the arguments adduced, in order that he might give his vote to the various questions raised.

1. Protocols Nos. 12, 13, 14, and 15 were read over, adopted, and signed.

2. The Servian Commissioner declared that he was authorized by his Government to give his sanction to the whole Bulgaro-Servian boundary as traced by the Commission, and that, therefore, his objections previously made at certain places were to be considered removed.

3. A communication was read from M. Ristich in answer to the telegram sent to that Minister. (See Protocol No. 10, Annex No. 2). In this communication M. Ristich explained that the causes of complaint on the frontier near the Koprounik were due to poles having been cut near to mark and to arrange the boundary-line, but that orders had been given to discontinue this work.

4. Another communication was read from M. Ristich, informing the Commission that Colonel Zdravkovitch was called to other functions, and would be replaced by the late Servian Commissioner, Colonel Milutin Jovanovich.

5. Colonel Milutin Jovanovich took his place, instead of Colonel Zdravkovitch, as Servian Commissioner, and his letter of appointment was read.

6. A discussion then arose as to the movements of the Commission, and Major Velini proposed the following resolution:—

"That the Commission should start as soon as possible to Prepolac, settle the boundary there, and then proceed to Kanilug, viâ Koprounik-Planina. Arrived there, a portion of the Commission should retrace their steps to Prepolac, and continue the delimitation along the Mrsar and the Goljak Planinas to Cerni Camen (Poljanica-Planina), up to which point the frontier was fixed last year. That the remainder should go straight to Belgrade, and thence to Mali Zvornik, to settle the new frontier in that locality. And that, finally, the two portions of the Commission should unite again in Belgrade, to ratify each other's work done, and to sign the necessary documents, before finally separating."

The Italian Commissioner, in support of this proposal, said his sole object was to accelerate the movements of the Commission, which hitherto had been very slow.

In the discussion which ensued, the President (as French Commissioner), the German and Austrian Commissioners voted in favour of this resolution. The British, Russian, and Servian Commissioners, however, were of a different opinion; they considered that the slow progress which had been made was due to the technical details and topographical work which had to be executed, and not to the Commission itself; they desired, moreover, to go over the Turko-Servian frontier.

The Turkish Commissioner, on being informed of the motion before the Commission, voted against the resolution of Major Velini.

No majority having been obtained, the motion of the Italian Commissioner was therefore lost.

7. The Commission, on hearing that the Turkish Commissioner had telegraphed to Constantinople to state that his health would not permit him to continue his work, agreed to wait until Thursday, the 3rd July, until the necessary arrangements could be completed to appoint a fresh Commissioner. They begged him, however, to delegate

his authority to Hamid Bey, his assistant, who was already on the frontier, to act for him (until the arrival of the new Commissioner) on that portion only between Poljanica and Prepolac, where there could be no question, the Turko-Servian frontier in that locality being strictly a watershed, about which there could be no doubt.

No. 470.

Captain Anderson, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 17.)
Nisch, July 2, 1879.

My Lord,

IN continuation of my despatch No. 11 of the 15th June, I have the honour to submit the following Report on some further points which have arisen in completing the delimitation of the Servo-Bulgarian frontier.

The frontier from the Vidlic-Planina passes in a direct line to the point selected as Mount Raducina on the Kodja Balkan, as reported in the above-mentioned despatch, but a slight deviation was agreed upon to allow the fields of Slavinia to remain with the village. The direct line after passing Slavinia cuts no village, and for the most part crosses a rocky and rugged country where the marking of a direct line is preferable to a line following natural features.

From the point selected as Mount Raducina the frontier follows the sharp and well-defined crest of the Kodja and Ciprovec Balkans, and in tracing this frontier as laid down in the Berlin Treaty, it was found that the new frontier arrived at the old Servian frontier about six miles south of the Kula of Smiljova Cuka. The Austrian Staff Map shows this locality incorrectly, for the old frontier was found to intersect the crest of the Balkans at Ivanova Livada, the correct position of which is more to the east than as shown on the map. From Ivanova Livada the old frontier proceeds along the crest of the Balkans north-westward to the Kula of Smiljova Cuka.

I inclose a tracing to illustrate these remarks, showing in Sketch No. 1 the junction of the old and new frontier as drawn on the Austrian Staff Map, and in Sketch No. 2 the correct delineation of the intersection of the old and new frontiers, as marked on the ground by the Boundary Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. ANDERSON, *Captain, R.E.,*
Her Majesty's Commissioner.

Inclosure in No. 470.

Tracing showing Delimitation of Servo-Bulgarian Frontier from Vidlic-Planina to Ivanova Livada.

No. 471.

Captain Anderson, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 18.)
Nisch, July 2, 1879.

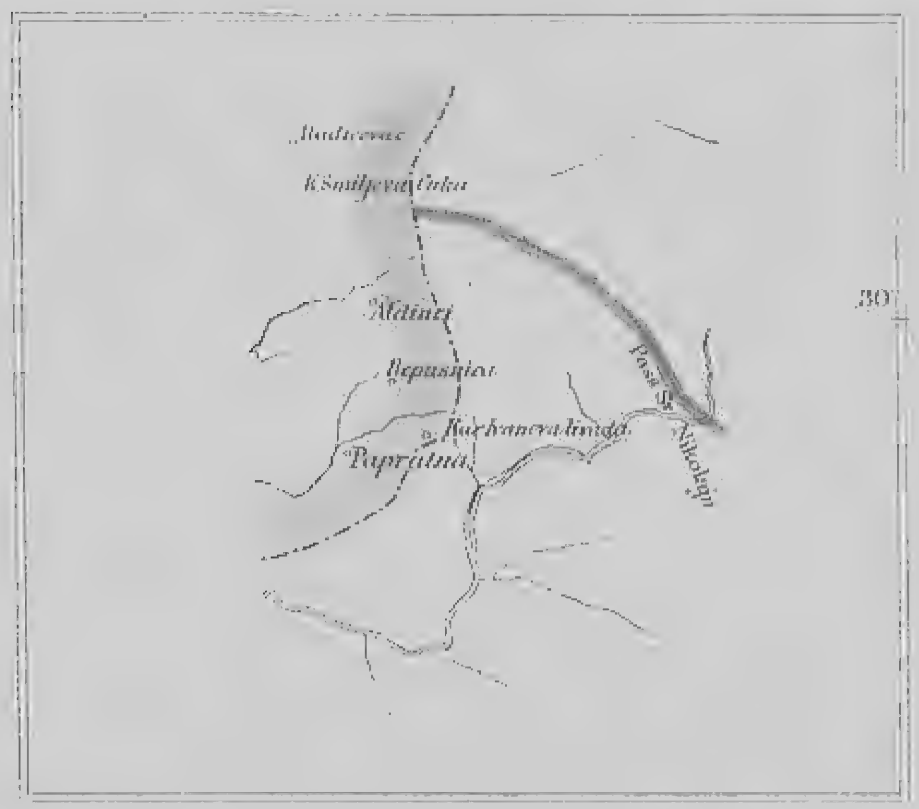
My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 16 of this date and the notes of the proceedings of the Commission at the meeting of the 29th June, transmitted therewith, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Colonel Zdravkovitch, the Servian Commissioner, has been replaced by Colonel Jovanovich, the late Servian Commissioner during the delimition of the Servo-Turkish frontier.

I have further to inform your Lordship that General Yahya Pasha, the Turkish Commissioner, in consequence of illness, is about to be replaced by Djevad Bey, now employed on the Greek frontier. Pending the arrival of Djevad Bey, and in order that the work of the Commission may not be delayed, General Yahya Pasha has authorised the next senior member of his party, Major Hamid Bey, to act for him in the delimitation of the Servo-Turkish frontier between Poljanica and Prepolac,

Nº 1.

Line of New Frontier as shown on Treaty Map.



Nº 2.

Line of New Frontier as traced by Boundary Commission.

where there can be no question, as this portion of the frontier follows strictly a line of watershed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. ANDERSON, *Captain, R.E.*,
Her Majesty's Commissioner.

No. 472.

Captain Anderson, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 29.)

(No. 19.)
My Lord, *Nisch, July* 2, 1879.

ON the 25th June I had the honour to send to your Lordship through Mr. Gould the following telegram referring to the state of the country on the Servo-Turkish frontier:—

"Constant small skirmishes reported on western frontier, between Albanian and Servian peasants. The raids are mostly begun by Albanians and apparently undertaken for the sake of stealing sheep or cattle. Skirmish took place on the Goljak Planina the day before yesterday, two Albanians reported made prisoners, one Servian wounded. These troubles have not assumed large proportions, as topographical work of Commission is still, I believe, in progress; I do not apprehend that the progress of the Commission will be in the least impeded provided proper precautions are taken by the Turkish and Servian authorities."

It appears that troubles of this nature have unfortunately not been unfrequent on this frontier, owing to the animosity of the Albanian refugees who fled from their homes during the Servian occupation, and who will not return to be subject to the Slavs. These men having lost all they possessed look upon the present occupiers as intruders, and are always on the alert to make petty raids on the sheep or cattle grazing near the new frontier.

I do not apprehend that these disturbances are of a very serious nature, as a surveying party sent to this frontier by the Commission, escorted by Turkish soldiers, have been working without any check being reported. I should add that every precaution is to be taken by the Turkish and Servian authorities for the safety of the Commission, and under this protection I do not think the Commission will run any risks by the hostility of the Albanian refugees.

It is difficult at Nisch to obtain much Albanian news, beyond the Servian frontier, but I have also gathered that Nazif Pasha, the Vali of Kossovo, has been active in trying to assert the Ottoman influence over the wilder portions of Albania, where the League had full independence. I am informed that four Turkish battalions have entered peaceably into Prisrend, a place which was in total subjection to the League. It is asserted that this act has roused Djekova against Prisrend on account of the latter town having given itself up to Ottoman occupation. Should this prove to be true, it might probably lead to such a division in the Albanian League as would prove a serious blow to its power of action.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. ANDERSON, *Captain, R.E.*,
Her Majesty's Commissioner.

No. 473.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 29.)

(No. 190.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, July* 14, 1879.

IN conformity with the instructions conveyed to me in your Lordship's telegram of the 11th instant, I have urged on the Servian Government as strongly as I could the acceptance of the Porte's proposal that, *inprimis*, the Ottoman Consul-General at Nisch should be officially recognized pending the conclusion of the negotiations for a Consular Convention, which the Porte were ready to accept in principle.

To this M. Ristich objected that, unless the Servian Government made the most of the present opportunity, the natural dilatoriness of the Sublime Porte was such the proposed Consular Convention might very probably remain in abeyance for months, if not for years.

He stated further that he saw no reason why the Porte should hesitate to sign it at once, seeing that he had taken every possible care to eliminate from it any subject-matter calculated to give rise to lengthened discussion, since it contains but five clauses, the first of which is merely the preamble; the second secures perfect reciprocity in regard to the right of appointing Consuls in each other's dominions; the third assures mutually to their respective Consuls the same treatment as that accorded to the Consuls of the most favoured nation; the fourth discards all claims on the part of either of the contracting parties to exercise Consular jurisdiction in the territories of the other; and the fifth stipulates that the administration of the estates of the subjects of either country dying within the dominions of the other shall be vested in the hands of their respective Consular officers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 474.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 192.)
Belgrade, July 14, 1879.

My Lord,

CARATHÉODORY PASHA has addressed a telegram to the Ottoman Légation here on the subject of the return to Servia of the Albanian refugees in such mild and vague terms, that the Turkish representative is quite at a loss to decide what course to pursue with respect to it, for he has already, at my request, alluded to this matter in language far more energetic.

Knowing the vivid interest Her Majesty's Government take in bringing this painful question to a prompt and satisfactory conclusion, I have ventured to suggest to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople the expediency of advising the Sublime Porte first to ascertain for itself whether the Albanian refugees still desire to return to their homes, and secondly, to address to the Servian Government a formal demand on their behalf in the above sense.

I should then be in a far better position to press this matter on the attention of the Servian Government, who seem to cast doubts on the sincerity of the desire of the Sublime Porte to favour the cause I have been so long pleading in vain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 475.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 193.)
Belgrade, July 15, 1879.

My Lord,

I AM informed, on good authority, that as regards the old frontier between this Principality and Bosnia the instructions furnished to the Delegates to the European Boundary Commission for Servia by their respective Governments are not identical, and I therefore fear that difficulties and consequent delays may occur at the last moment unless a previous understanding is come to amongst the Signatory Powers.

The French and Austro-Hungarian Delegates are specially directed to proceed to the delimitation of Mali-Zwornik and Sakhar, although these two places form but an "enclave" in the Servian territory hitherto held by Turkey.

The latter is, moreover, instructed to submit to the decision of the Commission certain questions relative to the rightful ownership of several islands in the Drina, on the plea that the terms used in the XXXVIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin are "the new frontier follows the existing line along the thalweg of the Drina;" that it so happens that the possession of these islands has long been a moot point between the two conterminous countries; and that the old frontier, *i.e.*, "the existing line," according to the text of the Treaty, does not invariably follow the thalweg.

The main channel or thalweg of the Drina, like that of many other rivers in this part of Europe, is subject to frequent and considerable changes in its course.

At one moment islands on the Servian side of the main stream may at another find themselves on the Bosnian. None of the other Delegates, so far as I know, are provided with instructions on these two points. Though they might easily agree

amongst themselves to include the first in the task assigned to them, they would probably find it impossible to come to an understanding on the second without referring to their respective Governments for special powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 476.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 200.)
Belgrade, July 18, 1879.

My Lord,

ACCORDING to your Lordship's instructions, I have not failed to address to M. Ristich most earnest remonstrances against the continued maltreatment of the Mahommedan population of the Principality, and to point out that the surest guarantee for its independence lay in securing the sympathy of the Great Powers, which it would soon forfeit if it persevered in its present course of conduct.

His Excellency begged me to assure your Lordship that no one felt more deeply than he did of what vital importance it was to Servia to possess the sympathy of Europe, and especially of Her Majesty's Government, and that, consequently, no effort would be spared, on his part, to remove as speedily as possible all well-founded cause of complaint.

He, however, remarked that the Servian Government could hardly be held wholly responsible for the wrongs inflicted on the Mussulmans, which were due in a great measure to the unfortunate position they were placed in. They could not accustom themselves to live on a par with, and even be ruled by, a Christian population, whom they had so long been in the habit of looking down upon. Their continued residence in Servia had, therefore, become utterly distasteful to the great majority of them, and they all sought to dispose of their properties as rapidly as possible, in order to be able to settle in Turkey amongst people of their own habits, religion, and race.

The result was that the market was swamped with the sellers of real property, whilst the buyers were limited in number, and still more so as regards the disposal of capital.

He did not, at the same time, deny that the latter, and in some cases the local authorities, had made the most of their opportunities, even by having recourse to means which he would be the last to attempt to justify; but he denied that there had been any instances of personal violence having been resorted to against Mussulmans in Servia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 477.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 205.)
Belgrade, July 21, 1879.

My Lord,

THE Porte have directed the Ottoman Envoy here to send to Nisch, without further delay, M. Nicolaïdes, the gentleman recently appointed to act as Turkish Consul-General in that town and the surrounding districts.

He is to take up his residence there unofficially pending the conclusion of a Consular Convention between Servia and Turkey, in order to become thoroughly acquainted with the condition of the Mussulman population and report thereon to his Government.

I have, therefore, taken upon myself to inform M. Ristich of the decision arrived at by the Porte, and to warn his Excellency that, should any obstacles be thrown in the way of his proceeding to his future post in a private and confidential capacity, I felt certain such conduct on the part of Servia would create a most unfavourable impression on Her Majesty's Government and the other Signatory Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 478.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July 29.*)

(No. 207.) *Belgrade, July 22, 1879.*

My Lord,

THE Turkish Envoy here has communicated to me a telegram from his Excellency Caratheodory Pasha, stating that reports have reached the Sublime Porte of hasty and extraordinary military preparations on the part of Servia with a view to an early advance from Nisch on Prisrend and Old Servia.

To the best of my knowledge there is not the slightest foundation for disquieting rumours of this nature. There are not above 9,000 to 10,000 regular troops under arms, many of them this year's recruits, who have taken the places of an equal number of time-expired men dismissed to their homes.

The project of forming reserves for the regular army, submitted last year to the Skuptschina, has had to be abandoned for the present owing to the want of the necessary funds. At this moment not a single militia corps is embodied, with the exception of a few small detachments of the local militia of the border districts, temporarily engaged in assisting the troops of the line in the difficult task of guarding the southern frontiers of the Principality against the repeated raids of the Albanian refugees. All that has been done is to issue a general order that persons liable to serve in this force are to report themselves within a given time at the head-quarters of their respective military districts, for the purpose of enrolment in the corps to which they may be assigned. It has been also rumoured that the militia will be mustered into the service for a few days' drill in the course of the autumn, but, on account of the expense, it is doubtful whether this measure will be carried out. Efforts are, however, being made gradually to repair the losses sustained during the recent campaigns in the shape of war material, and to improve the national armaments, which are in a very defective state, the stock of rifles of an approved pattern being, I am assured by military men, scarcely sufficient for the use even of the limited number of men actually serving with the colours.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 479.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July 29.*)

(No. 208.) *Belgrade, July 23, 1879.*

My Lord,

SERMED EFFENDI, the Ottoman Envoy here, has shown me a petition, addressed to the Sublime Porte and the Signatory Powers in the name of all the Mussulmans in Servia, complaining of the ill-treatment they have experienced at the hands of the Servian authorities, and praying that an International Commission should be appointed to investigate the matter.

I have informed him, in reply, that I have no special instructions with regard to this petition, but that, acting in obedience to your Lordship's orders, I have repeatedly warned the Servian Government of the very serious responsibility they were incurring by their unjustifiable conduct towards the Mussulman population.

I added that M. Ristich had given me every possible assurance that measures would be at once taken to remove all cause of complaint; that the Natchalnik (Préfet) of Nisch, who was most to blame in the matter, had already arrived here to answer personally the grave charges brought against him; that I had, from the first, been given to understand he would be dismissed, a step I would not fail to insist upon seeing duly carried out; and that a Circular had been issued by the Minister of the Interior to the Natchalniks (Préfets), strictly enjoining on them the necessity of affording the Mussulman population every assistance and protection in their power, both as regards the safety of their persons and their properties.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 480.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July 29.*)

(No. 209.) *Belgrade, July 23, 1879.*

My Lord,

ON the receipt, on the 21st instant, of the telegram of Captain Anderson, Her Majesty's Boundary Commissioner for Servia, informing me that, contrary to the prescriptions of Article XLI of the Treaty of Berlin, Servian troops still occupy a band of Turkish territory about 9 miles beyond the old Servian frontier, extending westwards from the Kapaonik to Raeza on the River Elbar, I hastened to address the Servian Government a formal demand for the immediate evacuation of the territory in question.

M. Ristich said he was totally unaware that Servian troops occupied at any point territory outside the limits of the Principality, but that he would at once cause inquiries to be made by telegraph, and should the information communicated to Her Majesty's Boundary Commissioner be confirmed, he solemnly engaged to direct the troops to be instantly withdrawn.

I have again conferred to-day with his Excellency on the subject, and he affirmed that up to that moment no reply to his inquiries had yet been received, owing to their being no through communication by telegraph with this remote portion of the frontier.

He, however, added that the Minister of War had no knowledge of the alleged fact, nor any of the local authorities who had been applied to; consequently, he was more than ever persuaded there could be no foundation for it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 481.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July 29.*)

(No. 65.) *Philippopolis, July 14, 1879.*

My Lord,

THE "Maritza" of the $\frac{25th\ June}{7th\ July}$ published a Decree emanating from the Direction of Justice, appointing temporarily, in the name of the Governor-General, until the meeting of the Provincial Assembly, the members of the new Departmental Tribunals and twenty-two Cantonal Magistrates, and appointing also, subject to the approval of the Sultan, the Judges of High Court of Justice.

Lists of the appointments, as published in the "Maritza," are herewith inclosed.

Your Lordship will perceive that the proportion in which these nominations, taken together, have been distributed among the representatives of the three principal races inhabiting this province, is as follows:—

Bulgarians	41
Greeks	3
Turks	4
Total	48

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 481.

APPOINTMENTS to High Court of Justice at Philippopolis.

CIVIL SECTION.

President	Nencho Christeff		Bulgarian.
Members of Court ..	J. P. Gerdjikoff		Ditto.
	Vassiloki Morfoff		Ditto.
	Emin Effendi		Turk.
	Zisli Nenisoglou		Greek.

Criminal Section.

President	George Gruoff	Bulgarian.
Members of Court ..	Stephen J. Gueshoff	Ditto.
	C. Karaminkoff	Ditto.
	Hadji Ismail Bey	Turk.
	C. G. Boghnaly	Greek.

Bulgarians	6
Turks	2
Greeks	2
Total	10

Inclosure 2 in No. 481.

Appointments to Departmental Tribunals:

1. Philippopolis.

(a.) *Civil Section.*

President	C. Pavloff	Bulgarian.
Member	S. G. Chalu-oglou	Ditto.

(b.) *Criminal Section.*

President	T. Vlassakoff	Ditto.
Members	I. C. Ivanoff	Ditto.
	Kirko Mitzora	Greek.

2. Tatar-Bazardjik.

President	I. D. Matakieff	Bulgarian.
Member	Voivodoff	Ditto.

3. Ilankeui.

President	G. Zlatoroff	Ditto.
Member	G. Sarvoff	Ditto.
Mufti	Halil Effendi	Turk.

4. Eski-Zagohra.

President	D. Nanuoff	Bulgarian.
Member	Petko Taneff	Ditto.

5. Slivno.

President	S. P. Stefanoff	Ditto.
Member	P. Minkoff	Ditto.

6. Bourgas.

President	P. Uvaliff	Ditto.
Member	G. Vodenicharoff	Ditto.

Bulgarians	14
Turks	1
Greeks	1
Total	16

Inclosure 3 in No. 481.

List of Cantonal Magistrates.

Philippopolis	A. Mulécf	Bulgarian.
Carlovo	C. Lazareff	Ditto.
Kritchina	N. Stoimeneff	Ditto.
Rhodope	C. S. Brednioff	Ditto.
Orehe Hulm	I. Arcloff	Ditto.
Tatar-Bazardjik	N. Christovich	Ditto.
Panagurisste (Otlukeui) ..	I. I. Parpuloff	Ditto.
Peshtera	Is. G. Tomeff	Ditto.
Ichtiman	K. Todoroff	Ditto.
Haskeui	C. T. Smitcheff	Ditto.
Kyrdjali	Undji-oglou Hafiz Agha	Turk.
Hemanli	Nedelko Milkoviteh	Bulgarian.
Hadji Eles	S. P. Popoff	Ditto.
Eski Zaghra	G. G. Slavoff	Ditto.
Kyzanlik	P. Veleff	Ditto.
Yeni-Zaghra	Edreneff	Ditto.
Slivno	D. Petroff	Ditto.
Yamboli	G. C. Panaiyotoff	Ditto.
Kyzil Agatch	D. Georgakoff	Ditto.
Bourgas	A. Toprakchieff	Ditto.
Karnabad	Kolaroff	Ditto.
Aidos	A. Popoff	Ditto.

Bulgarians	21
Turks	1
Greeks	0
Total	22

No. 482.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July 29.*)

(No. 67.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, July 14, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report that Bulgarian and Greek refugees from the Province of Adrianople continue to return to their native villages by railway almost daily, in batches of from 10 to 100.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 483.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July 29.*)

(No. 72.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, July 14, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report that this town was completely evacuated by the Russian troops yesterday afternoon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 484.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July 29.*)

(No. 73.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, July 15, 1879.*

I SPOKE to the Exarch to-day on the subject of his letter to General Stolipine, in which he referred to the "Bulgarians of Southern Bulgaria."

His Beatitude acknowledged the authenticity of the letter, and expressed his regret at having been induced to sign it in the form in which it has been published by

the "Maritza." It had been drawn up for his signature by "the Society" of Philippopolis, and sent to him at Hissar, where he was at that time taking mineral baths, and having no Secretary with him he had not been able to get the letter recopied.

In reply to my question as to whether the Society of which he spoke was the "National Committee," the Exarch stated that it was not, but gave me no further information on the subject.

His Beatitude, in reply to my observations, endeavoured to excuse himself on the ground that he was forced sometimes to make concessions to the public opinion of his fellow-countrymen; but I declined to accept such a plea from the head of the Bulgarian Church, who should, I said, on all occasions, have the courage of his opinions, and be a guide to his flock in a path of lawfulness.

As he seemed to lay some stress on the fact that General Stolipine had set the example of applying to this country the name of "Southern Bulgaria," I pointed out to his Beatitude that it was certainly not for him to follow such a bad and dangerous example, and that I had no doubt General Stolipine would be severely censured by his Government for ignoring one of the most important conditions of a Treaty to which his Sovereign had been a party. I added that, on this occasion, at least, General Stolipine would not be able to repudiate his words, as in the case when, in my presence, he told some young officers of the militia to recollect that the Russian Tsar was the "Supreme Head of the Slav world."

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 485.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 74.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, July 15, 1879.*

AS an illustration of the difficulties by which he is beset, the Exarch mentioned to me this morning, in the course of conversation, that one of his Bishops had for some time been at Kustendil, on the frontier of Macedonia, meddling in matters which did not appertain to his holy office; and that much as he desired to recall him, and even to deprive him of his bishopric, he was powerless to do so, as no Synod would support him in such a course.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 486.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 75. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, July 15, 1879.*

IT is confidentially reported to me, by a person who has frequently supplied similar information of a trustworthy kind, that the National Committee of this town received a few days ago a further secret communication from the Moscow Panslavist Committee.

My informant was unable to give me any details as to the contents of this communication, being merely in a position to assure me that the National Committee is being urged by the Moscow Committee to endeavour to purchase the complete and thorough adherence of Aleko Pasha to its Pan-Bulgarian aspirations, and to bring about the removal of General Vitalis and his staff of foreign officers from the militia of this province. The price to be offered to Aleko Pasha for his co-operation is, according to my informant, to be limited to 1,300,000 fr., to which money-bribe is to be added the prospect of succeeding to the throne of a future enlarged Principality of Bulgaria. The Moscow Committee think that the well-known vanity of Aleko Pasha may be worked upon in the direction of making him believe that no fitter or more legitimate candidate for the Bulgarian throne, nor one more acceptable to the Bulgarian people at large, exists than himself.

The drilling of the Bulgarian "gymnasts" in this town, which had been suspended for some time past during the harvesting operations, recommenced three days ago. I

learn from the same confidential source that agents were yesterday sent into the villages by the National Committee of this town to urge the rural "gymnasts" likewise to practice unremittingly the martial exercises which they have been taught by the Russians.

The National Committee continues to be presided over by M. J. Gronieff, Director of Public Instruction; Dr. Vulcovitch, Director of Public Works, has likewise become a member of it; while M. Iskroff, the ex-Director of Justice, actively keeps up his connection with the organization.

The Committee have now established a Sub-Committee in the suburb of Karshi-Yaka, composed of persons of no particular note, whose duty is to carry out the decisions of the Head Committee.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 487.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 76.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, July 16, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a letter which I have received from General Vitalis, inclosing translations of Decrees for the temporary organization of the gendarmerie and for the appointment of officers to the militia, training battalion, and gendarmerie of this province, according to the lists submitted to Aleko Pasha by General Vitalis, and which were very slightly altered with the approval of the latter.

From the statistical abstract of those appointments, which I likewise have the honour to inclose, your Lordship will perceive that the number of officers of Russian origin, or who have served in the Russian army, is nearly 28 per cent. of the total number.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 487.

General Vitalis to Consul-General Michell.

M. le Consul, *Philippopoli, le 14 Juillet, 1879.*

J'AI l'honneur de vous adresser, ci-inclus, toutes les pièces pour l'organisation de la milice, Bataillon-Ecole, et de la gendarmerie. Cette organisation a commencé depuis sept jours, et les compagnies arrivent à leur destination successivement depuis deux jours.

Votre bien dévoué,
(Signé) V. VITALIS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 487.

Decree of Aleko Pasha concerning Temporary Organization of Gendarmerie.

LE Gouverneur-Général, agissant en vertu des pouvoirs qui lui sont conférés, en Conseil Privé, arrête:—

Article 1er. En attendant qu'un règlement d'administration publique ait déterminé la division cantonale de la province et permette d'organiser la gendarmerie départementale sur les bases prescrites au Statut Organique, il sera procédé, à titre provisoire, à la formation de cette force publique sur les bases ci-dessous.

Art. 2. Il sera pourvu, à titre provisoire, à la nomination, pour chaque département, d'un Capitaine, Commandant de compagnie, et d'un nombre de Lieutenants et Sous-Lieutenants, Commandants de section, sensiblement rapproché de celui des futurs cantons. Ces officiers se rendront immédiatement aux chefs-lieux de leurs départements respectifs.

Art. 3. Aussitôt après son arrivée au chef-lieu de sa compagnie, le Commandant de chaque compagnie établira, d'accord avec le Préfet, une division territoriale du département en autant de sections provisoires qu'il a été mis d'officiers à sa disposition. Il assignera à chacun d'eux un chef-lieu de section, également provisoire, en ayant soin de ne désigner à cet effet que les villes proposées comme devant servir de chefs-lieux de cantons.

Art. 4. Il sera immédiatement formé, dans chaque département, un personnel de sous-officiers, brigadiers et gendarmes de l'arme à pied et de l'arme à cheval, conformément aux indications numériques portées au Tableau ci-après:—

	A Pied.	A Cheval.
Département de Philippopoli	120	80
" Tatar Bazardjik	180	80
" Ha-keui	180	50
" Slivno	100	40
" Yeni-Zaghra	100	20
" Bourgas	200	100
	880	570
Total (distinction faite de la gendarmerie mobile)	1,250 gendarmes, dont 370 à cheval.	

Art. 5. Les Commandants de compagnie, aussitôt après leur entrée en fonctions, doivent se préoccuper de recruter, autant que possible sur le territoire de leurs départements respectifs, le nombre d'hommes fixé pour leurs compagnies par l'Article 4 ci-dessus. Ces hommes seront recrutés:—

1. Parmi les hommes du corps de gendarmerie créé pendant l'occupation.

2. Parmi les jeunes gens du pays qui se présenteront à titre de volontaires.

3. Parmi les miliciens actuellement en service dans les drougines. Le nombre de ces derniers ne devra pas excéder le tiers de l'effectif provisoirement fixé pour chaque compagnie.

Art. 6. A cet effet les Commandants de compagnie feront connaître, par tous les moyens de publicité mis à leur disposition, les conditions générales d'admission dans le nouveau corps de la gendarmerie, et inviteront les anciens gendarmes et les volontaires à faire parvenir, à bref délai, leur demande d'admission.

En ce qui concerne les miliciens en service, ils se mettront en rapport avec les Commandants des drougines stationnées dans le département, et n'accepteront les demandes formulées par les miliciens que si elles sont transmises par la voie hiérarchique et appuyées d'un avis favorable des Commandants des drougines.

Pour rendre plus rapide ce travail préliminaire, les Commandants de compagnie délégueront aux Commandants de section sous leurs ordres les pouvoirs nécessaires pour recevoir les demandes des candidats, vérifier les certificats de moralité et autres documents présentés par eux pour établir leur état civil, leurs aptitudes, et leur services antérieurs, et leur faire passer la visite médicale. Les officiers de section établiront ensuite un tableau nominatif des candidats, en donnant, sur chacune des demandes, leur avis motivé et les adresseront au Commandant de compagnie, en y joignant toutes les pièces présentées par les candidats. Ce tableau de proposition devra être soumis à l'officier de santé, qui aura procédé à la visite médicale.

Art 7. Les Commandants de compagnie étudieront, de concert avec les préfets, les états de proposition, et arrêteront les listes des candidates admis, et leur feront contracter, en leur présence, l'acte d'engagement indiqué à l'Article 478 du Statut.

Art. 8. L'acte d'engagement sera écrit dans la langue du candidat; il sera revêtu de la signature de deux témoins choisis par ce dernier, et certifié par le Commandant de compagnie.

La teneur de l'acte d'engagement sera la suivante:

Je, soussigné (noms et prénoms), fils de , né à , âgé de (âge approximatif), déclare m'engager à servir pendant deux ans, à partir de ce jour, dans la gendarmerie de la Roumélie Orientale. Je promets obéissance à mes chefs et fidélité aux lois.

En foi de quoi j'ai signé le présent acte d'engagement.

Fait à , le

(Signature de l'engagé volontaire) (Signatures des deux témoins.)

Pour légalisation de la signature:

Le Capitaine Commandant de la compagnie.

Art. 9. Dans les vingt-quatre heures après la signature de leur acte d'engagement, les nouveaux gendarmes seront conduits devant le Juge de Canton, siégeant en audience publique, pour prêter le serment prescrit à l'Article 1er du Règlement Provisoire de la Gendarmerie. La teneur du serment sera la suivante:

"Je jure fidélité aux lois de la province, je jure obéissance à mes chefs, je jure de remplir avec honneur et fidélité mes devoirs professionnels."

Le procès-verbal de la prestation de serment est établi en double expédition par le Juge de Canton, il est signé par lui ou par son suppléant légal; une des expéditions du procès-verbal est envoyé au Commandant de compagnie, qui la conserve dans ses archives, l'autre reste déposée au greffe du Tribunal.

Art. 10. Aussitôt après la prestation de serment les nouveaux engagés sont habillés et armés au magasin de la compagnie et sont ensuite répartis par les soins des Commandants de compagnie entre les sections provisoires et dirigés immédiatement sur les chefs-lieux de ces sections pour être mis à la disposition des officiers commandants.

Art. 11. Les Commandants de compagnie détermineront, à titre provisoire, après accord avec les Préfets, et proportionnellement à l'affectif total fixé pour la compagnie, le nombre des brigades appartenant à chaque section, ainsi que l'effectif provisoire de chacune de ces brigades. Les Commandants de section répartissent, au fur et à mesure de leur arrivée, les nouveaux gendarmes, entre les différentes brigades de leurs sections respectives.

Les Commandants de compagnie sont autorisés également, à titre de dispositions temporaires, à nommer provisoirement les sous-officiers et brigadiers dans les limites du nombre fixé à l'Article 3 du Règlement Provisoire de la Gendarmerie.

Art. 12. Il sera rendu compte dans les huit jours au Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie des nominations provisoires faites en vertu du dernier paragraphe de l'Article ci-dessus, sous la forme d'états de propositions, signés par ce Commandant de compagnie et par le Préfet.

Les nominations ne seront définitives qu'après l'envoi de la lettre de service, signée du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

Art. 13. A titre de dispositions transitoires et pour la période d'organisation, les officiers nouvellement promus dans la Gendarmerie Départementale entreront en solde à dater du jour de leur nomination. Les sous-officiers et gendarmes entreront en solde à partir du jour de la signature de l'engagement.

Art. 14. En attendant qu'une traduction officielle, en langue Bulgare, Grecque, et Turque, des Règlements du Chapitre XIII du Statut et du Règlement Provisoire de la Gendarmerie ait pu être faite et distribuée aux membres de tous grades de ce corps, il en sera fait une impression spéciale en langue Française, et des exemplaires de cette publication seront mis à la disposition des Commandants de compagnie en nombre suffisant pour que chaque officier, sous-officier, et brigadier puisse en posséder un.

Art. 15. Les Commandants de compagnie, les commandants provisoires de section, et les Commandants de brigade devront s'attacher, chacun en ce qui le concerne, à l'application rigoureuse des dispositions du Statut. Les commandants de compagnie devront en particulier faire usage avec prudence et modération des pouvoirs exceptionnels qui leur sont confiés pour la période d'organisation; ils s'attacheront surtout à faire une juste appréciation des Articles 477, 478, et 479 du Statut, et ils devront rendre compte journellement au Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie des dispositions qu'ils auront prises.

Art. 16. Le Général Commandant la milice et la gendarmerie est chargé de l'exécution du présent Arrêté.

Le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale,
(Signé) A. VOGORIDES.

Philippopoli, le 22 *Juin*, 1879.

Inclosure 3 in No. 487.

Ordre du Jour No. 28.

Philippopoli, le 26 *Juin*, 1879.

EN vertu des pouvoirs qui me sont conférés, ou l'Ordre du Jour No. 26 pour la formation de la milice en 12 drougines dont les 1re, 10e, et 12e sur pied de guerre, les autres sur cadre d'une seule compagnie dite présente, conformément au Statut et qui conservent leurs numéros,

Décrète les nominations suivantes :

État-Major.

Chef d'État-Major	Lieutenant-Colonel Baron de Tornstain	Français.
Chef du Personnel	Capitaine Lisenko	Russe.
Chef du Contrôle	" Mercenier	Autrichien.
Attaché de l'État-Major	Sous-Lieutenant Iankoff	Rouméliote.
Aide-de-camp du Général Commandant la milice et la gendarmerie	Lieutenant Georgevitch	Bulgare du Nord.
Ditto	" Mirkovitch	Serbe.

Commandants des Droujines.

1re Philippopoli	Capitaine Baïtcho Nikoleff	Bulgare du Nord.
2e "	" Minkoff	Bulgare de la Bessarabie.
3e Futur-Bazardjik	" Tzaneff	Bulgare du Nord.
4e Gorlova	" Iliaieff 1er	Russe.
5e Kyzanlik	" Chivaroff	Bulgare du Nord.
6e Eski-Zagbra	Lieutenant Filoff	Rouméliote.
7e Slivno	Capitaine Jakobson	(Suédois) Russe.
8e Yambôli	" Loubomski	Bulgare de la Bessarabie.
9e Hermanli	" Yachtiroff	Russe.
10e Haskeui	" Lobanowski	Polonais.
11e Aïdos	" Kazitcheff	Russe.
12e Bourgas	" Idanoff 2e	"

État-Major des Droujines.

1re Droujine	Sous-Lieutenant Adjudant Athanasoff	Rouméliote.
	" Trésorier Metchkoneff	"
2e	" Adjudant Andrieff	"
	" Trésorier Ivanoff, N.	"
3e	" Adjudant Voulkoff	"
	" Trésorier Efoutief	"
4e	" Adjudant Ilaricheff	"
	" Trésorier Bochoulkoff	"
5e	" Adjudant Ivanoff, D.	"
	" Trésorier Anastasoff	"
6e	" Adjudant Vetcheff	"
	" Trésorier Peneff	"
7e	" Adjudant Bakardjieff	"
	" Trésorier Dmoubrewski	"
8e	" Adjudant Gunetcheff	"
	" Trésorier Arsaroudoff	"
9e	Lieutenant Adjudant Fitingoff	Allemand.
	Sous-Lieutenant Trésorier Voulnaroff	Rouméliote.
10e	" Adjudant Airamoff	"
	" Trésorier Beadjieff	"
11e	" Adjudant Tokloudjoff	"
	" Trésorier Stoïanoff	"
12e	" Adjudant Toderoff	"
	" Trésorier Novatcheff	"

Cadres des Droujines.

1re Droujine : Commandant de Compagnie	Lieutenant Danjoff	Russe.
	Sous-Lieutenant Engelgardt	(Allemand) Russe.
	" Elnikoff	Rouméliote.
	" Bieff	"
2e Droujine	" Hohenzoir	(Autrichien) Russe.
	" Mesdroff	Rouméliote.
	" Veleff	"
	" Galounski	"
3e Droujine	Lieutenant Goudcheff	"
	Sous-Lieutenant Blouskoff	"
	" Athanasoff	"
	" Fourmadjieff	"
4e Droujine	Lieutenant Stoïanoff 1er	"
	Sous-Lieutenant [illegible]	"
	" Sredoff	"
	" Dimitrieff	"
5e Droujine	Lieutenant Rissoff	"
	Sous-Lieutenant Mosakoff	"
	" Abrogi ff	"
	" Teherepoff	"
6e Droujine	" Nicolaeff 2e	"
	" Tchortadji	"
	" Tenkoff	"
	" Salabacheff	"

7e Droujine : Commandant de Compagnie	" Nicolaeff 3e	Rouméliote.
" "	" Tiankoff	"
" "	" Dobreff	"
" "	" Kozlowski	"
8e Droujine	" Nikolaeff 4e	"
" "	" Kessakoff	"
" "	" Minkoff	"
" "	" Botoucharoff	"
9e Droujine	Lieutenant Porochin	Russe.
" "	Sous-Lieutenant Pantchérski	Rouméliote.
" "	" Petkoff	"
" "	" Boyanoff	"
10e Droujine	Lieutenant Stoyanoff 2e	"
" "	Sous-Lieutenant Beloff	"
" "	" Tchanoff	"
" "	" Kountcheff	"
11e Droujine	Lieutenant Nossalewski	Russe.
" "	Sous-Lieutenant Klanaff	Rouméliote.
" "	" Ivanoff (Dobro)	"
" "	" Savoff	"
12e Droujine	Capitaine Petrini	(Italien) Russe.
" "	Lieutenant Fitzum	Allemand.
" "	" Nabaskoff	Russe.
" "	Sous-Lieutenant Obrechkoff	Rouméliote.

Les Droujines Nos 1, 10, et 12 étant mises sur pied de guerre, messieurs les officiers dont les noms suivent sont attachés provisoirement à ces droujines, et y doivent remplir tous les devoirs dont ils sont chargés :

1re Droujine	Sous-Lieutenants	Veleff, Galounski, Athanasoff, Fourmadjieff, Stepoff, Dimitrieff.
10e Droujine	"	Abadjieff, Teherepoff, Tocheff, Salabacheff, Dobreff, Kozlowski.
12e Droujine	"	Minkoff, Botoucharoff, Petkoff, Boyanoff, Ivanoff (Dobro), Savoff.

Le Commandant de la Milice et Gendarmerie de la Roumélie Orientale,
Le Général de Brigade,
(Signé) V. VITALIS.

Le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale,
(Signé) A. VOGORIDES.

Inclosure 4 in No. 487.

Ordre du Jour No. 6.

Philippopoli, le 28 Mai, 1879.

Aux Armées de la Roumélie Orientale.

LE Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale, par son Décret en date du 23 Mai courant, m'ordonne, en ma qualité de Commandant de la Milice et de la Gendarmerie, de former, conformément au paragraphe 40 du Statut Organique de la Roumélie Orientale, le cadre des officiers du Bataillon-Ecole.

Avec l'approbation de son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général, je procède aux nominations suivantes :—

État-Major du Bataillon Ecole.

Commandant	Capitaine d'Artillerie Kotino	Russe.
Assistant Major	Lieutenant Berkouski	Bulgare.
Officier Payeur	" Martcherko	Russe.

Première Compagnie d'Infanterie.

Commandant	Capitaine Trintowine	Allemand.
	Sous-Lieutenant Bakalmanoff	Rouméliote.
	" Latchinoff	Russe.

Deuxième Compagnie d'Infanterie.

Commandant	Capitaine Gobloff	Russe.
	Sous-Lieutenant Nicolas Batcheff	Rouméliote.
	" Kosstcheff	"
	" Sidoffz	Autrichien.

Escadron d'Élite.

Commandant	Capitaine Yezikoff	Russe.
	Lieutenant Remizoff	"
	Sous-Lieutenant Tintcheff	Rouméliote.
	" Radie	"

Dont Batterie.

Commandant	Capitaine Veklitch ..	..	Russe.
	Lieutenant Vielosewski	..	Polonais (Russe).
	„ Fichtenberg ..	..	Allemand (Russe).
	Sous-Lieutenant Leibolf	..	Russe.
	„ Petroff	..	„

Compagnie du Génie.

Commandant	Capitaine Ouzatis ..	..	„
	Sous-Lieutenant Kirkoff	..	Rouméliote.
	„ Gulmezaff	..	„
	„ Sinolnikoff	..	Russe.
	„ Const. Ouzatis	..	„

A la Suite dans le Bataillon.

Officiers d'Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général	Sous-Lieutenant Peroff	..	Rouméliote.
	„ Marinoff	..	„
	„ Nikoucheff	..	„
	„ Stoyeff	..	„
Attaché au Bureau de l'Etat-Major-Général	„ Loukoff	..	„

En portant ce Décret à la connaissance générale, j'ordonne aux officiers ci-dessus d'entrer de suite en fonctions. Le Commandant du Bataillon-École aura à entrer immédiatement en fonctions. Il aura à s'occuper, sans délai, de la formation complète de cette École, et m'annoncer, aussitôt sa tâche terminée, l'achèvement de ses travaux.

Le Général de Brigade, Commandant de la Milice et de la Gendarmerie de la Roumélie Orientale,
(Signé) V. VITALIS.

Confirmé:
Le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale,
(Signé) A. VOGORIDES.

Inclosure 5 in No. 487.

Ordre du Jour No. 29.

Philippopoli, le 27 Juin, 1879.

Aux Armées de la Milice et de la Gendarmerie de la Roumélie Orientale:

CONFORMÉMENT à l'Article 9 du Statut Organique de la Roumélie Orientale, la Commission chargée de la formation du personnel de l'Etat-Major pour les Compagnies et les officiers m'a présenté la liste de tous les officiers et le nombre de gendarmes pour chaque préfecture et nommément:—

Inspecteur de la Gendarmerie ..	Colonel Borthwick ..	..	Anglais.

Etat-Major de la Gendarmerie.

Chef de Bureau	Tzarigraski ..	..	Bulgare.
Adjoint au Trésorier ..	Tchomakoff* ..	..	Rouméliote.
Officier d'Habillement ..	Lieutenant Matkouroff	..	Bulgare.

COMPAGNIES DE GENDARMERIE.

Département de Bourgas.

Commandant de la Compagnie ..	Capitaine Kotosiloff ..	..	Russe.
	Lieutenant Voitinchenko	..	„
	„ Selvernicki	..	Polonais.
	Sous-Lieutenant Milkovitch	..	Dalmate.
	„ Koulos	..	Grec de Roumélie.

Département d'Eski-Zagra.

Commandant de la Compagnie ..	Lieutenant Vassiliff ..	..	Russe.
	Sous-Lieutenant Pantza	..	Bulgare.
	„ Sacaloff	..	Rouméliote.

* Officier sans troupe assimilé au grade de Capitaine.

Département de Haskoi.

Commandant de la Compagnie ..	Capitaine Récut ..	..	(Officier) Russe.
	Lieutenant Milunevitch	..	Polonais.
	„ Gocheff ..	..	(Officier) Russe.
	Sous-Lieutenant Nedoff	..	Rouméliote.
	„ Pavlichevitch	..	Autrichien.
	„ Mehmed Effendi	..	Turc de la Roumélie Orientale.

Département de Slivno.

Commandant de la Compagnie ..	Lieutenant Th. Nicolaieff	..	Bulgare.
	Sous-Lieutenant Ninoff	..	Rouméliote.
	„ Kantcheff ..	..	„
	„ Moussa Effendi	..	Turc de la Roumélie Orientale.

Département de Tatar-Bazardjik.

Commandant de la Compagnie ..	Capitaine Théodoroff ..	..	Bulgare.
	Lieutenant Vertelinski	..	Polonais.
	Sous-Lieutenant Vaskevitch	..	(Officier Russe) Serbe.
	„ Sokoloff	..	„ „
	„ Popoff, A.	..	„ „

Département de Philippopoli.

Commandant de la Compagnie ..	Capitaine Bouzanovski	..	Polonais.
	Lieutenant Baudouy ..	..	Français.
	Sous-Lieutenant Christoff	..	Roumélien.
	„ Petroff III	..	„

Gendarmerie Mobile.

Commandant de la Compagnie ..	Capitaine Ralkovitch ..	..	Autrichien.
	Lieutenant Matrosenko	..	Russe.
	„ Petrovoski	..	Polonais.
	„ de Mollans	..	Français.

Composition Numérique de la Gendarmerie dans chaque Département.

Département—	A Pied.	A Cheval.
Bourgas	200	100
Eski-Zagra	100	20
Haskoi	180	50
Slivno	100	50
Tatar-Bazardjik	180	80
Philippopoli	120	80
Gendarmerie Mobile	70	40
	950	410
Total	1,360	

Chef de la Milice et Gendarmerie,
(Signé) V. VITALIS.

Le Gouverneur-Général,
(Signé) A. VOGORIDES.
Philippopoli, le 21 Juin, 1879.

Enclosure 6 in No. 487.

STATISTICAL Abstract of Appointments to Militia, Training Battalion, and Gendarmerie of Eastern Roumelia, July 1879.

Origin of Officers.	Militia.	Training Battalion.	Gendarmerie.	Total.
East Roumelian	65*	11†	18‡	89
Russian pure	9	12	5	
,, Bulgarian from Bessarabia	2	1	5	
,, Polish	1	1	1	43
,, Austrian	1 } 16	1 } 16	} 11	
,, Italian	1			
,, Swedish	1	2		
,, German	1		5§	10
Bulgarian from Principality	3	1	..	2
Servian	1	1	1‖	1
Dalmatian	..	..	2	3
Austrian	1	..	..	2
German	2	..	2	4
French	2	..	1¶	1
British	..	..		
Total	91	29	35	155

* One officer has served in the Russian army; all of Bulgarian race.
† All of Bulgarian race.
‡ Including two Turks and one Greek; remainder of Bulgarian race.
§ One has served in Russian army and mother has acted as interpreter in the Turkish and Russian services.
‖ Has been in Servian service.
¶ Colonel Borthwick.

No. 488.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 29.)

(No. 77.) *Philippopolis, July* 16, 1879.

My Lord,

TO the surprise and disappointment of nearly all the other Commissioners, the Ottoman Delegates made, at a meeting of the Commission held this day under the presidency of Prince Tzeretelew, a declaration of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, and which, if not totally withdrawn, is calculated to paralyze all future action on the part of the Commission, and thus to leave the Porte to grapple alone with Aleko Pasha and the Bulgarian party in this province.

At a time when the other Powers have at last happily brought into harmony the instructions given to their several Commissioners, the refusal of the Porte to allow the Commission to give authoritative interpretations of its own work—the Organic Statute—appears to all the Commissioners sincerely interested in the maintenance of the Treaty of Berlin to be an act of inexplicable folly.

It is clear that nearly all questions of the application of the Statute will involve an interpretation of its provisions, and it is scarcely conceivable that, in its present political condition, the Porte should wish to assume the right of deciding single-handed whether in certain cases the Governor-General has or has not violated the law under which this province has been created.

It is also difficult to see the apprehensions which could have prompted such a course, for all the Commissioners, except Prince Tzeretelew, are deeply disappointed at the manner in which the Organic Statute, and particularly Article 21, has been interpreted and applied by Aleko Pasha, and are most anxious, as a matter of conscience and policy, to strengthen the hands of the Porte in dealing with the gross violations of the Statute of which they have too long been passive spectators.

The French Commissioner, more especially, now agrees with me in thinking that the principal occupation of the Commission should be to place on record such deviations from the letter and spirit of the Organic Statute as will constitute an unanswerable ground for the impeachment and dismissal, when found absolutely necessary or convenient, of the present Governor-General, whose fear of the Ottoman Porte is even at present very small.

I am inclined to believe that the apprehension under which this course has been taken by the Porte has arisen out of the comparatively small question as to whether the Sultan or the Governor-General, acting as His Majesty's Representative, should appoint the officials of the local telegraphic service.

Abro Effendi, the Assistant Ottoman Commissioner, has warmly espoused the right of the Sultan in this matter, and it is possibly more a question of bestowing appointments than one of Imperial policy.

At the same time, there was every probability of the question being decided by a majority of the Commission in favour of the view maintained by the Ottoman Delegate. The French and Austrian Commissioners would have voted for the Turkish interpretation, and I gave the Ottoman Commissioners to understand that if a casting vote was required I would give it in their favour, for as I had not taken part in the framing of the Statute, I would be guided principally by the opinion of my Austrian colleague.

That part of the declaration made by the Ottoman Commissioners which relates to the effect of a unanimous vote is equally incomprehensible at the present stage of the negotiations, that have so long been pending, with reference to the instructions of the French and Russian Commissioners.

Her Majesty's Government have been instrumental in setting aside an evidently insincere desire on the part of Russia to render the decision of the Commission directly obligatory on the Governor-General, and at the very moment when this great difficulty has been surmounted the Ottoman Porte comes forward with a proposal to the effect that a unanimous vote of the Commission should be binding on the Sultan's Representative, while, in the case of an interpretation of the Statute, the same Government apparently desires to impose its own independent view of the Organic Statute on the Governor-General.

In the first place, if the Commission is to discuss the acts of the Governor-General, it is almost impossible to expect unanimity in the views of the Commission. The Russian Commissioner is of opinion that "all is going on well;" and will probably adhere to that opinion so long as Aleko Pasha remains unchecked. In the second place, an adverse vote purposely given or an abstention on the part of any single Commissioner can render the desired provision nugatory.

From the latter point of view, I joined the Austrian, German, and Italian Commissioners in offering, under personal responsibility, to accept that provision, on condition that the Ottoman Commissioners should make such a concession on the subject of interpreting the Statute as would allow the Commission to resume its proper functions.

But the Ottoman Commissioners refused, and our offer was withdrawn, more particularly as Prince Tzeretelew raised doubts as to whether he would be justified in considering the competency of the Commission to be established, unless the Ottoman Commissioners agreed to the binding character of a unanimous vote in the matter of calling in Turkish troops.

The resolutions which were submitted to the Commission, and of which I have the honour to inclose copies, will explain to your Lordship in greater detail the course of the proceedings at the meeting held this day.

Having been unofficially asked whether the letter addressed by the Governor-General on the subject of the telegraph involved, in their opinion, the inadmissible question of an interpretation of the Statute, the Ottoman Commissioners replied in the affirmative, and thus compelled the Commission to adjourn once more until the instructions given to its several members shall have been fully reconciled, in the face of necessities which are daily becoming more urgent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 488.

Declaration made by Ottoman Commissioners at Meeting of Eastern Roumelian Commission, July 16, 1879.

LES Commissaires Ottomans, munis de leurs instructions, déclarent que les décisions de la Commission doivent être obligatoires pour le Gouverneur-Général, tant qu'elles seront prises à l'unanimité des voix; que la majorité absolue des voix ne doit rendre ces décisions que facultatives pour le Gouverneur-Général; que quant à l'entrée des troupes Ottomanes dans la province, cette éventualité étant prévue par le Traité de Berlin, la Commission ne saurait adopter aucune résolution qui serait de nature à entraver l'exécution des dispositions y relatives; et que pour les cas spéciaux, ils se réservent de demander les instructions spéciales de la Sublime Porte.

Inclosure 2 in No. 488.

Résolutions moved at Meeting of Eastern Roumelian Commission, July 16, 1879.

"LA Commission est tenue de s'énoncer sur toutes les questions qui lui sont posées par le Gouverneur-Général. Elle peut, sur l'initiative d'un de ses membres, adresser à ce dignitaire des avis sur toute matière ayant trait à l'application du Statut Organique."

(Adopted unanimously, the Ottoman Commissioners reserving their opinion in respect to an interpretation of the Statute.)

2. "Dans toutes les questions ayant trait à l'application du Statut Organique, la Commission prendra ses décisions à la majorité absolue de quatre voix."

(This was unanimously adopted.)

"Ces décisions auront un caractère purement consultatif. Elles ne deviendront obligatoires pour le Gouverneur-Général que si elles sont adoptées à l'unanimité."

(The first paragraph, down to the word "consultatif," was unanimously adopted. In respect to the second paragraph, reservation was made by the Austrian, British, German, and Italian Commissioners.)

3. "Les avis de la Commission, émis à la majorité absolue des voix, sur l'opportunité d'appeler les troupes Turques, sont obligatoires pour le Gouverneur-Général."

(Adopted by all the Commissioners, except the Turkish, who reserved the question, under their last instructions.)

4. "Après la déclaration de MM. les Commissaires Ottomans au sujet de l'interprétation du Statut, la Commission ne croit pas possible d'entrer pour le moment dans la discussion des deux questions précitées" (telegraphs and Greek petition) "et s'ajourne jusqu'à la réception de nouvelles instructions par MM. les Commissaires de Turquie."

No. 489.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 79.) *Philippopolis, July* 17, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship translations of the following documents relating to the Carlovo outrage, viz.:—

1. Letter appointing Mr. Vlassakoff President of a Commission of Inquiry;
2. Instructions to the Commission of Inquiry; and
3. Report of the Commission of Inquiry.

As the Commission has been instructed to amplify its first Report, it is not necessary that I should analyze that document in order to prove the incorrectness of the conclusions at which the Commission were induced to arrive, under an obvious

tendency to render the Jews alone responsible for the outrage which they suffered at Carlovo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 489.

Aleko Pasha to M. Vlassakoff.

Philippopoli, le 16 *Juin*, 1879.

Monsieur,

EN vous nommant membre et Président de la Commission qui est chargé de faire l'enquête sur les événements de Carlovo relatifs aux familles Juives, je vous prie de partir sans délai avec vos collègues auxquels vous transmettrez les nominations qui sont jointes ici, en leur indiquant comment et à quelle heure vous partez.

Vos instructions sont ci-jointes sur les dix-huit questions qui sont contenues dans le Rapport de M. Veneziani. Pour le Secrétaire de la Commission vous prendrez M. Christo A. Guéroff.

(Signé) A. VOGORIDES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 489.

Instructions of Aleko Pasha to the Commission of Inquiry respecting the Carlovo Riot.

(Traduction.)

Secrétaire-Général Directeur de l'Intérieur de la Roumélie Orientale, Philippopoli.

DANS le rapport que M. Veneziani a présenté sur les événements à Carlovo, on remarque les faits suivants, sur lesquels on doit faire l'enquête:

1. M. Veneziani s'était entendu précédemment avec l'autorité locale sur le désir qu'il avait que toutes les familles Juives soient reçues par les habitants avec bienveillance, outre les individus qui lui ont été indiqués dans une liste ensuite, dans une lettre du $\frac{5}{17}$ Juin, signée par le Chef du Canton, Naïdenoff, et par les Présidents des trois Conseils, on lui a dit que sans plus regarder la liste, tous les Juifs qui se croient innocents et dont la présence ne produira aucune mauvaise impression ni donnera occasion à la sédition publique, peuvent librement entrer à Carlovo. D'ailleurs, il n'a stipulé que pour ceux qui dans la liste ont été reconnus innocents et que dernièrement, quand les Juifs sont arrivés à Carlovo, à la demande de M. Veneziani, l'autorité a répondu qu'en vérité il n'y avait pas des coupables parmi eux. Est-ce vrai?

2. M. Veneziani dit, avec étonnement, que son don de 119 roubles fait à la Société Féminine de Bienfaisance était d'abord accepté, puis rendu. Quelle en est la raison?

3. Le $\frac{12}{24}$ Juin, Dimanche, suivant l'ordre de M. Naïdenoff, M. Veneziani, accompagné de l'Ecrivain du Conseil Municipal, a visité une bâtisse et d'autres maisons Juives, habitées par les Bulgares. Le Secrétaire lui conseilla de préférer les maisons Juives, en l'informant qu'il les fera abandonner en vingt-quatre heures aux Bulgares, et puisque celui-ci ne voulait pas faire de l'embarras aux Bulgares, ils sont allés délibérer au Conseil Municipal. Par grand miracle il n'y trouvèrent personne et personne n'y était venue jusqu'au soir. Dans quel but le Secrétaire a proposé les maisons Juives?

4. Le lendemain, Lundi matin, à 7 heures, quand il apprit que les Juifs s'approchent, M. Veneziani est allé au Conseil Municipal pour demander à l'Ecrivain du secours. Celui-ci lui répondit que quatre gendarmes ont été déjà envoyés pour les rencontrer et les escorter. Sur quoi ils sont allés sur la route. Là l'Ecrivain lui dit de nouveau à l'improviste, entre autres choses: "quel sort merveilleux. L'homme sera forcé d'accepter les gens qui ont été cause des pendaisons de mon frère et de mon père." Les paroles ont été dites, et pourquoi? Puisque l'Ecrivain n'a pas encore ni vu, ni reconnu les Juifs qui arrivaient.

5. Quand les Juifs sont arrivés, ils ont attendu deux heures l'arrivée des gendarmes envoyés à leur rencontre. Pourquoi ce retard?

6. Quand les Juifs sont entrés dans la ville, dit-il, on ils sont arrivés heureusement dans la bâtisse de Rechid Effendi, mais non pas sans outrages essuyés sur la route. Y avait-il des outrages; lesquelles, et par qui faits?

7. Quand ils sont entrés dans la bâtisse, dit M. Veneziani, un Bulgare, dont il ne se souvient plus le nom, a saisi le Hahan par la gorge et un autre Bulgare nommé Boti est arrivé en proférant des jurements et des menaces contre les Juifs. Les femmes disaient entre autres choses que les Juifs sont entrés à Carlovo pour brûler la ville et s'en aller. M. Veneziani ajoute que ces cris et ces menaces ont été la première cause de la sédition. Est-ce vrai, et comment avaient elles lieu, ces affaires?

8. Sur quoi M. Veneziani s'en est allé à l'autorité pour demander du secours; de nouveau le Chef du Canton, les Présidents, et l'Ecrivain du Conseil Municipal voyant et reconnaissant qu'il n'y avait pas des coupables parmi eux indiqués dans la liste et que tous étaient des gens paisibles, respectables, et innocents, lui ont dit qu'ils garantissent leur sûreté, et s'il arrive quelque chose ils en prennent la responsabilité. Est-ce vrai?

9. Il dit que les Juifs, effrayés de ce qui pourrait arriver, demandèrent de retourner, et lui les a retenus en pensant qu'ils seront protégés par l'autorité. Il demande quel mal leur est arrivé jusqu'à présent pour qu'ils craignent qu'il ne leur arrive quelque chose de pire à présent?

10. Avec toutes ces assurances cependant, dit M. Veneziani, peu après, l'enclos du jardin de . . . . était arraché, la porte brisée et les pierres jetées comme la pluie tombèrent et blessèrent dangereusement deux femmes. Dès lors la confiance de M. Veneziani commença à diminuer. Est-ce vrai, et comment cela s'est-il passé, par qui cette attaque a-t-elle été faite?

11. Il dit qu'il a prévu quelque chose de semblable et il a ordonné aux voituriers qui ont amené les Juifs de ne pas partir, et qu'en vérité il en est resté deux qui, gagnés par quelques Bulgares, sont partis. Demandez est-ce vrai, et qui a donné l'argent?

12. A ce temps-là la foule criait encore beaucoup et devant l'autorité même; quand elle s'apaisa un peu, tout le monde partit une heure après, les troubles, les cris et les scènes recommencèrent plus fort et la foule se prépara à entrer par force dans le conak où étaient les Juifs. Quand M. Veneziani a vu cela, il courut à l'endroit où il aperçut une grande agitation que quelques gendarmes s'efforçaient d'apaiser, sans effet. Lui-même a été frappé deux fois et il a été sauvé par son domestique. Il y avait là 1,500 individus, hommes et enfants, qui commencèrent déjà à détruire les tuiles pour entrer dans la maison. Tout cela est-il vrai?

13. Alors il tâcha d'informer l'autorité par un messager qui, après beaucoup de temps, les trouva dans une maison particulière où tous étaient tranquillement à table. Il les appelle, leur expose la situation, et ils lui répondent qu'ils ne peuvent rien faire n'ayant pas la force nécessaire. Cependant M. Naïdenoff seul s'est levé, et malgré que les autres ne voulaient pas le laisser sortir, partit au lieu de l'émeute où, voyant l'impossibilité d'apaiser la foule, conseilla à M. Veneziani de prendre les Juifs et de partir, ce qu'il se décida de faire, s'étant convaincu de cette nécessité. Tout cela est-il vrai?

14. Les Juifs chargèrent les voitures qui les transportèrent hors de la ville tandis que les habitants jetèrent des pierres et frappèrent dangereusement une troisième femme. Est-ce vrai, et qui l'a frappée.

15. Alors M. Naïdenoff lui-même était attaqué, parce qu'il protégea avec un grand zèle les fugitifs. Est-ce vrai?

16. M. Veneziani pense que si les autres personnes influentes de la ville n'avaient pas abandonné M. Naïdenoff, celui-ci aurait pu persuader la population de cesser les troubles. Est-ce vrai que M. Naïdenoff était abandonné par les autres, et par quel raison ne l'aidèrent-ils pas?

17. Quand les Juifs partaient, une seconde partie de la population leur barra de nouveau le chemin sur le pont, par où seulement ils pouvaient s'échapper et éviter les huées, les outrages, et les coups qui ont commencé de nouveau contre eux. Quels étaient les chefs de cette nouvelle attaque?

18. A peine passèrent-ils le pont et s'arrachèrent avec la forte protection des gendarmes, les Juifs se dirigèrent vers Philippopoli, et M. Veneziani avec M. Naïdenoff retournèrent à la ville, où celui-ci lui exprima toute la peine de ce triste événement, et lui dit que cela était fait par des individus qui, il en exprimait le doute, étaient en accord tacite avec l'autorité, qui ne pouvait rester sans prendre part dans cette affaire. Combien cela est-il vrai?

Le Secrétaire-Général, Directeur de l'Intérieur,
(Signé) G. KRESTOVICH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 489.

Report of Commission of Inquiry respecting the Carlovo Riot.

A son Excellence M. G. Krestovich, Secrétaire-Général et Directeur de l'Intérieur de la Roumélie Orientale.

CONFORMÉMENT à l'ordre de Son Altesse le Gouverneur-Général du 16 Juin, 1879, la Commission formée pour faire l'enquête sur l'affaire de Carlova, relative aux familles Juives, est arrivée à Carlova par la poste le 17 Juin, et le 18 a ouvert la séance par l'Instruction No. 1.

Par l'Instruction No. 2 du même 18 Juin, elle appella le Chef de Canton pour donner les renseignements et les informations nécessaires sur l'événement qui a eu lieu le 11 Juin avec les Juifs fugitifs, qui sont arrivés à Carlova, et, ayant entendu les explications, elle a commencé à faire réglementairement les investigations, dont il ressort que:

1. M. Veneziani, membre de la Société Juive, était informé précédemment par les autorités locales de la ville de Carlova, que le retour dans la ville de quelques Juifs fugitifs les plus compromis dans les affaires sanglantes de 1877, serait, quant à présent, trop prématuré, et pouvait produire dans la population, qui se compose en grande partie des victimes épargnées par 1877, une impression pénible, parce que la culpabilité de ces Juifs est connue et le plus exactement démontrée à toute la population de Carlova. M. Veneziani accepta pleinement cette condition et assure que seulement ceux des Juifs retourneront qui sont acceptés par les habitants, et le 11 Juin il a amené au nombre des fugitifs six Juifs, savoir: Samuel Aloff Derventli, Solomon Feztchi, Abraham Goubinoff, Raphael Hadji Daïdoff, Bohor Demirdji, et Palikas Sardji, qui sont connus à toute la population de Carlova comme malfaiteurs et les plus compromis de tous.

2. M. Veneziani a réellement fait don de 119 roubles à la Société Féminine de Bienfaisance, mais cet argent n'a pas été accepté, par la seule raison que la Présidente pensait que les Juifs fugitifs avaient plus besoin de secours que quelques habitants de Carlova.

3. Réellement le Secrétaire du Conseil Municipal, sur la recommandation du Chef de Canton et du Président du Conseil Municipal, était envoyé pour montrer à M. Veneziana la maison de Rachid Effendi, dans laquelle il fallait temporairement loger les Juifs. En retournant, M. Veneziani a prié le Secrétaire de lui montrer quelques maisons Juives, en disant qu'il le demande par simple curiosité. Il lui a montré la maison occupée temporairement par Todor Dulgher. Ici, M. Veneziani demanda s'il ne serait pas possible d'y loger un ménage Juif avec Todor, et, ayant reçu une réponse affirmative, on lui a montré d'autres maisons. M. Veneziani s'en est allé à son logement, n'ayant plus affaires au Secrétaire du Conseil Municipal; même s'il y avait quelques affaire, comme c'était Dimanche, il est évident par soi-même qu'aux bureaux du Conseil Municipal il n'y avait personne, puisque il est universellement établi que le Dimanche il n'y a pas de séances.

4. Le Secrétaire du Conseil Municipal, dans les conversations privées, Dimanche le 10 Juin, parla de la dernière guerre, de la dureté des Turcs, que son père avait été brûlé dans le gaz et son frère pendu; "mais de quel sort merveilleux! L'homme sera obligé de recevoir des gens qui ont causé la mort de mon père et de mon frère;" il n'a pas parlé, et les recherches de la Commission ne confirment pas les assertions de M. Veneziani.

5. Les gendarmes, sur le témoignage du Chef de Canton et quelques autres, ont tardé à se rendre à la rencontre des Juifs, parce qu'il leur fallait aller chercher leurs chevaux dans la prairie, les seller et aller hors de la ville, où étaient les Juifs. Les assertions de M. Veneziani que les Juifs attendaient deux heures leur arrivée ne sont pas confirmées après des investigations.

6. L'assertion de M. Veneziani n'est pas confirmée. Pendant le passage des Juifs fugitifs il y avait très peu de monde dans les rues, puisque maintenant tout le monde se trouve aux champs et dans les prairies.

7. Réellement, quand les Juifs arrivèrent à la maison de Rachid Effendi, où leur logement était préparé, cette maison se trouvant à l'entrée du bazar, tous les individus des boutiques avoisinantes commencèrent à se renseigner par simple curosité, mais

pas par inimitié contre les Juifs. Alors une femme de Carlova, Lala Tzvetkova, a reconnu un tapis étendu dans une voiture, qui avait été pris chez elle pendant le pillage de Carlova, et elle a entamé là-dessus une explication avec les Juifs. Pendant ce temps le Habam (Rabbin) Juif sortit de la cour de la maison de Rachid Effendi, en disant que dans la cour un Bulgare l'avait saisi à la gorge et frappé au visage. Le Secrétaire du Conseil s'élança avec les gendarmes, mais ils ne purent trouver le Bulgare, et le Habam lui-même ne put l'apercevoir. La foule s'assemblait, surtout les veuves, et parmi elles Boti, qui reprochèrent aux Juifs leur participation aux affaires de 1877, mais personne ne les menaça. Les assertions de M. Veneziani ne sont pas confirmées.

8, 9. Quand M. Veneziani retourna chez le Chef de Canton, en le priant de protéger les Juifs, celui-ci, ne voyant rien de dangereux pour les Juifs, dit à M. Veneziani que, puisqu'il avait la liste des Juifs le plus compromis et dont la présence pourrait provoquer le mécontentement des habitants de Carlova, et on assura M. Veneziani, ainsi que ses Juifs, qu'ils pouvaient se fixer librement à Carlova, et qu'il ne leur serait fait aucun mal. Alors les Juifs commencèrent eux-mêmes à prier M. Veneziani de les faire retourner, et, malgré toutes les assurances du Chef de Canton et des habitants mêmes, ils insistèrent de nouveau pour repartir. Pour confirmer cela, il y a des témoignages des femmes Turques Aïshé Ummügül et Ummügül, ainsi que du Hodja de Carlova, Mehmet Oglou Osman.

10. Les assertions de M. Veneziani que la porte a été brisée, les fenêtres et l'enclos arrachés, se réfutent par cela même que la maison de Rachid Effendi, où on a placé les Juifs, n'a pas depuis longtemps ni portes ni fenêtres, ni même des châssis; quant au paroi, dont parle M. Veneziani, qu'il a été détruit par la foule, il est renversé depuis l'année dernière; et quant aux pierres, quelques-unes ont été lancées par les femmes et par les enfants, qui blessèrent très-légèrement deux Juives. Mais quel enfant avait jeté les pierres ni les autorités locales ne purent découvrir, ni les Juifs indiquer.

11. Les assertions de M. Veneziani que les cochers de deux voitures ont été gagnés ne s'accordent pas avec le bon sens et le départ des Juifs ne pouvait se faire. La cause de tout cela est que ces deux cochers ayant réussi, durant le voyage, à obtenir l'argent que leur devait M. Veneziani, trouvèrent plus commode pour eux de ne pas attendre en vain le départ des Juifs; et ceux qui n'avaient rien reçu étaient forcés d'attendre M. Veneziani et ses Juifs.

12. M. Veneziani n'était frappé par personne; la foule de 1,500 personnes, après les investigations, est réduite à 100, dont la plus grande partie s'assembla par curiosité, et les assertions de M. Veneziani ne sont pas confirmées.

13. Le Chef de Canton est allé chez son ami, M. Grozeff, à dîner, et quand arriva l'envoyé de M. Veneziani pour l'informer du danger qui menaçait les Juifs, le Chef de Canton qui savait que ce danger existait uniquement dans l'imagination de M. Veneziani et de ses Juifs, n'a pas couru, mais est allé lentement avec l'envoyé de M. Veneziani à la maison de Rachid Effendi, où il n'a rien vu, ni ne trouva rien, et assura de nouveau M. Veneziani qu'il n'avait pas la force nécessaire pour disperser la foule. Le Chef du Canton n'en avait pas d'ailleurs besoin, parce que sa seule présence était suffisante pour persuader les femmes de s'en aller chez elles.

14. Quand, ne prenant pas en considération les assurances du Chef de Canton, qu'aucun danger ne menaçait les Juifs à Carlova, M. Veneziani commença à engager les Juifs à se préparer pour le départ, il n'y avait personne; les femmes s'étaient dispersées et les pierres n'étaient plus lancées, puisqu'il n'y avait personne pour les jeter.

15. Quand les Juifs partaient de la ville, alors, en vérité, quelques femmes s'approchèrent de M. Naïdenoff, et lui montrèrent avec le doigt les Juifs qui prirent la plus grande part aux férocités de 1877, au temps du pillage de Carlova.

16. Quant aux autorités de la ville de Carlova, il n'y avait aucun besoin de leur coopération avec le Chef de Canton, à qui l'aide des gendarmes a paru également superflu.

La Commission, en présentant ces recherches à la considération de votre Excellence, ne croit pas inutile d'ajouter qu'en regardant seulement les recherches et les preuves il n'en ressort rien, et pas une seule assertion de M. Veneziani n'est confirmée. Tous les détails et tous les effrois étaient produits par l'imagination de M. Veneziani. Le mécontentement seul s'était montré parmi la population de la ville de Carlova à la venue des Juifs, et qui avait pour cause unique la présence parmi les Juifs fugitifs qui arrivèrent dans la ville de Carlova, de six Juifs qui personnellement se distinguèrent le plus dans les cruautés accomplies pendant l'année 1877. La découverte du tapis, faite par les femmes de Carlova, qui était reconnu comme pris au temps du pillage de la

ville, a ajouté à ce petit mécontentement qui s'est produit dans la ville de Carlova, et qui était présenté par M. Veneziani comme une sédition.

Le Président de la Commission,
(Signé) VLASSAKOFF.
Les Membres,
Capitaine SOKOLOVSKY, *Police Meister.*
T. KARAPIROFF.
V. MORFOFF.
K. T. BONGAZOFF.

No. 490.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July 29.*)

(No. 81.)

My Lord, *Philippopolis, July 17, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to forward lists of the Departmental Prefects, Secretaries, and Councillors, and of the Cantonal Baillis appointed by Aleko Pasha.

Those appointments have been divided among the several nationalities of this province in the following ratio, viz.:—

Bulgarians	40
Greeks	6
Turks	4
Total	49

The absolute number of Bulgarians is, however, only 35, and that of Greeks 4, because the Secretaries of Prefectures reappear on the list of Cantonal Baillis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 490.

List of Appointments to Departmental Offices.

Departments.	Offices.	Names.	Observations.
Philippopolis ..	Prefect	Al. Esareh ..	Bulgarian.
	Secretary	N. Vlassakoff ..	"
	Councillors ..	A. Gumnchgherdan ..	Greek.
		T. Kubleslikoff ..	Bulgarian.
Slivno	Prefect	T. Ikonomoff ..	"
	Secretary	Greksoff	"
	Councillors ..	R. Mirkovitch ..	"
		P. Milnikoff ..	"
Bourgas	Prefect	I. Petroff	"
	Secretary	B. Bichides ..	Greek.
	Councillors ..	Vacant	
		Vacant	
Tatar-Bazardjik ..	Prefect	G. Benef	Bulgarian.
	Secretary	G. Michnikoff ..	"
	Councillors ..	M. Madgaroff ..	"
		D. Yarukoff ..	"
Haskoï	Prefect	T. Rainoff ..	"
	Secretary	D. Dimcharoff ..	"
	Councillors ..	Mustafa Effendi ..	Turk.
		Marko Popoff ..	Bulgarian.
Eski-Zagra	Prefect	N. Markoff ..	"
	Secretary	A. Ilieff	"
	Councillors ..	St. Miloff	"
		T. Manoff	"

Bulgarians	19
Greeks	2
Turks	1
Vacant	2
Total	24

Inclosure 2 in No. 490.

List of Cantonal Baillis.

Departments.	Cantons.	Baillis.	Observations.
Philippopolis ..	Philippopolis ..	N. Vlassakoff ..	Bulgarian.
	Carlovo	I. Naidenoff ..	"
	Ovchek	C. Smirnofski ..	"
	Kritchma	T. Milkoff	"
	Rhodope	Mehmed Bey ..	Turk.
	Stanimaka	Kurtovitch	Bulgarian.
Slivno	Slivno	Grekoff	"
	Yamboli	Ivan Isankoff ..	"
	Kotel	C. Baichoff	"
	Kyzil Agatch ..	I. Petkoff	"
	Cavakli	Dimitri Hurmziadi ..	Greek.
Bourgas	Bourgas	B. Bichides ..	"
	Aidos	Hussein Zade ..	Turk.
	Ahiolu	D. Paskalidi ..	Greek.
	Karnabad	P. Dagoroff ..	Bulgarian.
	Sosopolis	.. .. ..	
Tatar-Bazardjik ..	Tatar-Bazardjik ..	I. Mishaikoff ..	"
	Ichtiman	N. Nashoff	"
	Otlukeni	P. Pavloff	"
	Peshtera	N. Popoff	"
Haskeni	Haskeni	D. Dumanoff ..	"
	Hadji Eles ..	I. Kochoff	"
	Hermanli	G. Beleheff ..	"
	Kyrdjali	Halil Bey	Turk.
Eski-Zagra	Eski-Zagra ..	A. Ilieff	
	Kyzanlik	P. Ivanoff	
	Chirpan	N. Ivanoff	
	Yeni-Zagra ..	M. Kolaroff ..	

Bulgarians	21
Greeks	3
Turks	3
Vacant	1
Total	26

No. 491.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 82.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, July 17, 1879.*

THE inclosed article from the local Greek organ complains, in strong and threatening language, of the Pan-Bulgarian tendencies of the local Government.

It states that, thanks to an arbitrary interpretation and application of the Organic Statute, this province has in reality become more Bulgarian than even the neighbouring Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 492.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 83.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, July 19, 1879.*

THE Bulgarian Exarch stated to me yesterday, in reply to my question, that since the evacuation of Philippopolis by the Russians he had issued orders to his clergy for the suppression of the word "Our" in the prayer of the Church for the Emperor and the Imperial family of Russia.

His Beatitude confirmed the statement that had previously been made to me by his Metropolitan, and which I had the honour to report to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the 12th May last, namely, that the Bulgarian Church was too poor to afford the printing of the Bulgarian Liturgy, copies of which, with the prayer for the Emperor's family of Russia, are at present supplied from Moscow.

He estimates the cost of printing the Liturgy at £T. 2,000.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 493.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 84.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, July 19, 1879.*

THE Governor-General stated to me yesterday that he had requested the Porte to remove General Vitalis.

I expressed my regret to his Excellency, and pointed out to him that he had no legal or substantial proof of the alleged incapacity of General Vitalis, who, so far as I knew, had not yet shown himself incapable of carrying out the scheme of reorganization drawn up by General Dickson and Captain de Torcy.

His Excellency, however, maintained that his own appreciation of the incapacity of General Vitalis afforded sufficient ground for the demand which he had made.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 494.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 85.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, July 19, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith the Minutes of the meeting of the European Commission held on the 26th ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 494.

Compte-rendu—Séance No. 72, tenue le 14/26 Juin, 1879 (7 Redjeb, 1296), au Consulat-Général de la Grande Bretagne à Philippopoli.

Présidence de M. MICHELL.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kállay.

Pour la France—
M. de Coutouly.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. Michell.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha,
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 6 heures du soir.

Le compte-rendu de la dernière séance, lu par M. Curiel, est adopté.

Le Président dit qu'il a convoqué la Commission sur le désir du Délégué d'Autriche-Hongrie, lequel se propose de soumettre à l'appréciation de l'Assemblée une communication ayant trait aux désordres qui ont eu lieu récemment à Carlovo.

M. de Coutouly déclare qu'il ne pourra discuter des questions comprises dans le nouveau mandat de la Commission tant que les divergences entre les instructions des Délégués des Puissances au sujet de ce mandat, divergences constatée à la soixante-huitième séance, continueront à subsister. Le Commissaire adjoint de France rappelle que le Baron de Ring s'est déjà énoncé dans le même sens, et il prie le Président de vouloir bien, avant de s'occuper de la motion de M. de Kállay, s'assurer à quel point persiste le désaccord entre les Commissaires.

M. de Braunschweig pense que, selon le mode de procéder en usage jusqu'ici, tout Commissaire a le droit de faire une communication sans que cela préjuge la question de savoir si cette communication peut être discutée; à ce point de vue, le Délégué d'Allemagne considère que l'Assemblée devrait entendre M. de Kállay.

Le Prince Tzeretelew se joint à M. de Coutouly pour déclarer que tant que la question de la compétence de la Commission ne sera pas tranchée, il ne pourra prendre part à aucune discussion se rapportant au nouveau mandat de la Commission: "Or," dit-il, "toute communication devant entraîner un débat et deux Commissaires s'étant déclarés d'avance dans l'impossibilité de participer à celui-ci, je crois inutile de prendre connaissance de la motion de M. de Kállay." Le Prince Tzeretelew termine en demandant à ses collègues de passer à l'examen de la seule question qui, d'après lui, puisse être à l'ordre du jour, la discussion sur le nouveau mandat de la Commission.

M. de Kállay pense comme M. de Braunschweig que, d'après le mode de procéder qui n'a cessé d'être en usage dans la Commission, tout membre a le droit de faire telle communication qu'il juge convenable indépendamment des questions portées à l'ordre du jour.

Le Président consulte l'Assemblée sur l'opportunité d'entendre la communication de M. de Kállay.

Les Commissaires d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, de la Grande Bretagne, d'Italie, et de Turquie se prononcent dans un sens affirmatif.

Le Commissaire de Russie refuse d'entendre la communication.

Abro Effendi constate que c'est pour la première fois qu'une communication d'un membre de la Commission n'a pu se faire.

La Commission passe à l'examen des trois questions posées par Sir Henry Drummond Wolff à la soixante-sixième séance et ayant trait à la compétence de la Commission et au nouveau mandat de celle-ci.

Le Chevalier Vernoni annonce qu'il a reçu de son Gouvernement des instructions supplémentaires d'après lesquelles un avis de la Commission ne devrait être considéré comme obligatoire pour le Gouverneur-Général que lorsqu'il s'agirait de l'appel des troupes Turques dans la province. Cet avis devrait être donné à la majorité des voix quant aux questions se rattachant à l'application du Statut Organique, les avis de la Commission, donnés à titre consultatif, ne devraient pas lier le Chef d'Administration Locale.

M. de Braunschweig se rallie aux idées exprimées par le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie à la soixante-huitième séance et corroborées par la communication que vient de faire le Délégué d'Italie. Il considère aussi que l'avis de la Commission ne devrait être obligatoire que pour l'appel des troupes Ottomanes.

M. le Coutouly et le Prince Tzeretelew déclarent qu'aucune modification n'a été apportée aux instructions de leurs Gouvernements qui ont été communiquées à la Commission dans la soixante-huitième séance.

Les Commissaires Ottomans n'ont également reçu aucune instruction supplémentaire.

A la suite de ces déclarations, *le Président* constate qu'il existe toujours une divergence de principe entre les points de vue des Commissaires sur le nouveau mandat de la Commission.

La séance est levée à 7 heures.

(Signé) MICHELL.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KÁLLAY.
COUTOULY.
VERNONI.
TZERETELEW.
ASSIM.
ABRO.

Certifié conforme à l'original:
(Signé) ROZET.
ISVOLSKY.
SÉLIM.
CURIEL.

No. 495.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 86.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, July 19, 1879.*

ALEKO PASHA stated to me yesterday that it was quite true that the Russians had delivered Ichtiman over to the troops of the Principality.

His Excellency added that he had referred the matter to the Sublime Porte, and that he had not, as stated in the "Maritza," sent a Commission to report upon the circumstances under which such a step had been taken by the Russian military authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 496.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 87.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, July 19, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith the copy of a "Communiqué" made to the "Maritza," in unusual and regrettable Ministerial language, by M. Crestovitch, the Secretary-General and Director of the Interior, on

the subject of the violent attacks that have recently been made in that journal on the Jews of this province.

The comments of the editor of the "Maritza" are worthy of notice, as they accuse the Secretary-General of complicity with the previous political tendency of the "Maritza," and imply a considerable amount of defiance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 496.

Extract from the "Maritza" of July 6, 1879.

Communiqué à M. Ch. G. Danow, Editeur du Journal "La Maritza."

TANDIS que le Gouvernement de la Roumélie Orientale s'efforce toujours à calmer les passions parmi les différentes populations éprouvées de cette province et a fait un constant appel à la presse locale aussi de lui venir en aide en prêchant la confraternité et l'oubli du passé, c'est avec une véritable stupéfaction, disons plutôt indignation, qu'on vient de lire dans la "Maritza" Française, à l'occasion des Israélites allés dernièrement à Karlovo, des propos tellement injurieux, tellement insultant, et tellement bas, qu'un homme qui se respecte et qui tant soit peu a vécu parmi des hommes, aurait honte de les prononcer même dans une conversation toute particulière; mais s'en servir dans la presse, quelque libre que soit cette presse, c'est dépasser les limites de toute convenance, faire preuve d'une impudence extrême, et se rendre coupable d'une barbarie inqualifiable. En effet, appeler les Juifs qui sont allés à Karlovo des gens de corde et de sac, un ramassis d'infâmes coquins, des monstres à face humaine, des pendards et des ignobles, c'est quelque chose d'insuc, ajouter ensuite à tout cela qu'un Bulgare qui achèterait quoi que ce soit, ou vendrait à un Juif, se rendrait indigne de porter le nom de Bulgare, c'est insulter au plus haut degré, non-seulement tous les Juifs, mais aussi tous les Bulgares, en faisant croire que tous les Juifs doivent être bannis de la société humaine, et que tous les Bulgares sont si fous ou tellement barbares, féroces, et inhumains, qu'ils suivraient volontiers le pernicieux conseil qu'il leur donne. Mais non! aussi parmi les Juifs, comme dans toutes les populations, il y a du mauvais, les Bulgares en général qui sont essentiellement bons et honnêtes, ont toujours aimé et honoré les gens bons et honnêtes comme eux, que ceux-ci s'appellent Juifs ou tout autre chose.

Ce blâme sévère que nous croyons mérité, est adressé à celui qui, sans réfléchir, a osé écrire et publier en face de toute l'Europe civilisée dans la "Maritza" No. 95 du 20 Juin (v. s.) l'article Français remplissant la deuxième et de la moitié de la troisième colonne de la première page. Plût à Dieu qu'il lui serve d'un bon avertissement pour l'avenir!

(Signé) G. CRESTOVITCH.

Philippopoli, le $\frac{2}{14}$ Juillet, 1879.

A cette prose, censément officielle, étonnante d'incorrection et de violence, nous ne fevons qu'une réflexion.

Pendant la campagne que nous avons soutenue pour le triomphe du régime qui nous régit aujourd'hui, M. le Secrétaire-Général actuel n'avait pas assez de mots élogieux pour celui qu'il traite aujourd'hui si charitablement d'impudent et d'étourdi.

Que son Excellence se rassure toutefois sous ce dernier rapport. "Celui qui a osé écrire et publier" l'article incriminé, ne l'a pas fait sans réfléchir; il en a au contraire pesé les termes avec la même réflexion qu'il a dû mettre à la réduction de tous ces articles qui ont, en d'autres temps, reçu la plus vive approbation de M. Gavril-Effendi. Il est vrai qu'à cette époque M. Krestovitch ne se doutait pas plus que nous —et pour cause—qu'il dût un jour rédiger des communiqués fulminants à la "Maritza."

Nous avons tout lieu de croire que ce ne sera pas le dernier. Mais nous espérons que le prochain communiqué sera rédigé de façon à ne pas ridiculiser le Gouvernement.

No. 497.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 88.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, July 19, 1879.*

ON the 15th instant Assim Pasha, the Turkish Commissioner, accompanied by Abro Effendi, went to the Konak, in order to pay a visit of civility to the Governor-General, whom they had not seen for several days.

The Governor-General passed them in the hall of the Konak without recognition, on his way to the Council-room, where he is reported to have used strong language on the subject of the frequent intrusions of the Turkish Commissioners. Having, however, been persuaded by some members of the Council to receive Assim Pasha and Abro Effendi, he joined the latter in the room into which they had been shown, and at once began using exceedingly strong language in respect to the action of the Porte in the matter of the rejection of M. Kessiakoff as Director of Justice, and the retention of General Vitalis as Commander of the Militia and Gendarmerie.

Assim Pasha states that he refused to discuss those questions, and only casually pointed out that, at his Excellency's request, General Dickson and Captain de Torcy had been sent to assist in the reorganization of the militia and gendarmerie, and that his Excellency had himself opposed the carrying out of the scheme devised by those officers.

The Turkish Commissioner, however, also remarked, in reply to Aleko Pasha's observations, that although his Excellency was certainly Governor-General, yet that he was subordinate to the Sublime Porte.

The Governor-General thereupon became very violent, used forcible language respecting the aptitude and conduct of the Sultan's Ministers, insisted that as Governor-General he had a right to expect the Sultan's approval of any measures he might propose; and at last left the room in great anger, without taking leave of the Turkish Commissioners.

On returning to the Council-room, his Excellency is reported to have stated in terms which will not bear reproduction, that he had "turned out" the Turkish Commissioners.

Assim Pasha having this day informed me that he has telegraphed this incident to the Porte, and declared that unless he obtains complete satisfaction he will insist on being recalled from Philippopolis, I have advised him not to consider the insult as personal, and to leave the vindication of his position as Ottoman Commissioner entirely in the hands of the Sublime Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 498.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 89.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, July 19, 1879.*

THE inhabitants of the neighbouring town of Stanimaka, having made complaints of the conduct of a squadron of mounted militia encamped between Philippopolis and the foot of the Rhodope, General Vitalis proceeded three days ago to make an inquiry into the acts of brigandage, &c., of which the men of that squadron had been accused.

It appears from the Report of the General, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, and likewise from the testimony of Captain Georgevitch, Aide-de-camp to General Vitalis, that the charges were proved to be well founded, and that the men had been instigated by their captain, a Russian officer of bad repute, whose name figured on the list of nominations which had been urged on the acceptance of General Vitalis, as reported in my despatch No. 42 of the 5th July.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 498.

General Vitalis to Aleko Pasha.

Philippopoli, le $\frac{7}{19}$ Juillet, 1879.

M. le Gouverneur-Général,

J'AI l'honneur de vous rendre compte du résultat de l'enquête à laquelle je me suis livré à Staninaka relativement à des désordres graves dont se seraient rendus coupables des miliciens détachés du côté de Katoumitza et Yenikeui.

Ces hommes appartiennent à cette partie de l'escadron du Capitaine Block qui, en attendant son licenciement, avait été envoyé au vert dans les environs de Konary.

En vous disant que ces miliciens avaient été sous les ordres du Capitaine Russe Block, qui a laissé derrière lui une fort triste réputation; qui a été, si votre Excellence s'en souvient, le héros d'une ovation où l'ivresse le disputait à l'ignoble; c'est vous dire, M. le Gouverneur-Général, quels mauvais sentiments devaient régner parmi ces hommes.

Il y a donc environ quinze jours un jeune homme, Petrakopoulo, fils d'un riche propriétaire de Staninaka, était maltraité par deux miliciens auxquels il voulait empêcher d'enlever du bois. Comme Petrakopoulo portait sur lui un revolver, ses agresseurs le lui enlevèrent et l'amenèrent à Philippopoli. Là, ils racontèrent au Capitaine[1] d'Escadron, Yasikoff, qu'ils avaient été menacés par cet individu et qu'ils le lui amenaient.

M. Yazikoff, après avoir écouté les parties, renvoya le jeune Petrakopoulo et lui rendit son revolver. Cet incident avait causé une pénible impression et les miliciens étaient encouragés par le Capitaine Block, qui, loin de partir de Philippopoli, y était resté pour continuer les intrigues. Cet officier leur déclarait qu'il n'y avait plus de Gouvernement, qu'il n'y avait plus de Chefs dignes de leur commander. Il leur faisait des distributions de vin, et le jour même où nous constations la rixe dans laquelle est blessé le jeune Petrakopoulo, une distribution de 40 occques de vin avait été faite.

Si le Capitaine Block entourait d'une telle sollicitude ces miliciens, j'ai le regret, en passant, de constater que sa prévoyance ne s'étendait pas jusqu'à ses chevaux. Ces pauvres bêtes ont été laissés dans un état pitoyable.

En arrivant à Katounitza je fis mettre en bataille l'escadron, afin que des paysans témoins de ces actes d'indiscipline pussent reconnaître les coupables. Les principaux étaient le Vaguemeister Ivanoff qui, oubliant sa position de Chef (le lieutenant étant malade et alité) avait toléré que ses hommes se portassent à des voies de fait vis-à-vis du jeune Petrakopoulo et avait en outre fait conduire cette victime d'une lâche agression à Philippopoli; Alexandre Stavoff qui avait, chez un bacal[a] nommé Nateho, à Konary, battu un civil, le nommé Beschdrem; Pié Philippoff et Nadetcho Koleff, qui avaient volé à Yano Tremo un imperméable.

J'ai fait arrêter tous ces hommes et les ai fait écrouer à la prison militaire de Philippopoli.

Après cette exécution, j'ai vivement manifesté aux hommes mon mécontentement, et leur ai annoncé qu'en conséquence de leur inconduite et du mauvais exemple qu'ils avaient donné, je licencierai leur escadron, les répartirai dans les droujines,[b] et que leurs chevaux seraient vendus Dimanche prochain.

Les soldats sont venu me supplier de leur pardonner, rejetant toute leur culpabilité sur les mauvais conseils qu'ils avaient écoutés, mauvais conseils dont j'étais convaincu, parce que parmi leur dépositions les paysans interrogés n'ont jamais manqué de me répondre: "Quand nous menacions les soldats de leur Chef, ils nous répondaient en riant, 'c'est notre Chef qui nous engage à faire ainsi.'"

Tels sont les faits qui se sont passés, M. le Gouverneur-Général; ils dénotent une grande indiscipline parmi les hommes de l'escadron, et cependant nous ne pouvons faire entièrement retomber sur ces miliciens la gravité des délits commis; on doit remonter plus haut; à ces Comités composés d'officiers mécontents cherchant à saper l'organisation que l'Europe a voulu établir en cette province, à dénigrer, à critiquer, tout ce que nous faisons, en essayant par de lâches et sourdes manœuvres à discréditer complétement le commandement.

J'espère que l'exemple sévère que le Conseil de Guerre fera en punissant les coupables servira et que je n'aurai plus occasion de vous entretenir de pareils actes.

Cette question d'indiscipline qui fait l'objet de ce Rapport, que j'attribue à

[a] Grocer.
[b] Regiments of Militia.

certaines influences presque disparues aujourd'hui, m'amène à porter à votre connaissance le fait suivant.

[The remainder of the Report relates to the importation of cartridges at Bourgas, and the non-delivery of the arms and ammunition for the gendarmerie.]

(Signé) V. VITALIS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 498.

Report by Captain Georgewitch.

Philippopoli, ce $\frac{7}{19}$ Juillet, 1879.

EN accompagnant son Excellence le Général Commandant la milice et la gendarmerie à Staninaka pour faire l'enquête relative aux faits reprochés à des miliciens et dénoncés par la lettre du Préfet de Philippopoli en date du 23 Juin, je déclare avoir entendu le Maréchal-des-logis-chef faire la déposition suivante:—

"Le Capitaine Block qui nous commandait s'occupait fort peu de nous, ne maintenait plus la discipline dans son escadron. Pour contenter ses soldats, pour s'attirer leur amitié, il leur faisait boire souvent du "raki" et du vin, de telle sorte que le jour où il y a eu une rixe avec des civils, les soldats avaient reçus du Capitaine Block 40 okes de vin.

"Le Capitaine Block nous répétait souvent qu'il n'y avait plus d'administration, plus d'autorité militaire; que nous étions libres de faire ce que nous voulions, que l'on pouvait battre impunément Grecs, Turcs, sans distinction de religion et de nationalité."

Tels sont les faits que j'ai appris et qui persuadent que l'indiscipline de cet éscadron provient de l'attitude de son Chef. Quant aux soldats, ils ont témoignés le regret de tout ce qui s'était passé, et m'ont prié de vous demander pardon, à vous le Général.

En foi de quoi j'ai signé.

(Signé) GEORGEWITCH.

Pour copie conforme à l'original certifié:
Le Lieutenant-Colonel Chef d'Etat-Major,
(Signé) B^n. E. DE TOUSTAINT.

No. 499.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 90.)

Philippopolis, July 19, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an extract from a Report which General Vitalis has this day addressed to the Governor-General on the subject of the difficulty which he has encountered in obtaining arms and ammunition for the gendarmerie in process of formation.

It appears that General Stolipine had verbally promised, a month ago, to supply the gendarmerie with about 1,400 muskets and carbines and with a certain quantity of ammunition, and that when General Vitalis sent an officer to fetch the arms and 400,000 cartridges, he was referred by General Stolipine at Bourgas, on or about the 6th instant, to the officer in charge of the arsenal at that port.

That officer stated that he had no arms or ammunition in store, and that 14,593,380 cartridges, imported by the Russian military authorities from Odessa, together with all the rifles in store at Bourgas, had been forwarded by "superior order" to Slivno.

On repairing to the latter town the officer dispatched by General Vitalis, and a copy of whose Report is likewise inclosed, was informed by the Director of the local Gymnastic Society that he had received the guns and the cartridges, and that, in compliance with documents in his possession, the same had been delivered over to the "regiments of the Gymnastic Societies."

General Vitalis adds in his Report, on the strength of information supplied by the same officer, that a further consignment of 6,000,000 cartridges was expected at Bourgas, and his Excellency has very properly requested the Governor-General to take

measures in order that this new consignment may have a destination more in accordance with the Organic Statute under which this province is governed.

In consequence of the Report thus made by General Vitalis, the Council have decided to demand an explanation from the Prefects of Bourgas and Slivno on the subject of the importation of cartridges and the distribution of ammunition and arms by the Russian military authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 499.

Extract from Report of General Vitalis to Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia, dated July 7/6, 1879.

AFIN d'armer immédiatement les gendarmes dont l'organisation est terminée à Philippopoli, grâce au zèle et à l'activité intelligente de M. le Colonel de Borthwick, j'avais envoyé à Bourgas un de mes officiers d'Ordonnance, chercher des cartouches et des mousquetons dont le Général Stolipine faisait cadeau, par ordre de son Gouvernement, à la milice de la Roumélie Orientale. Cet officier Général me télégraphiait même de nous hâter d'en prendre possession. Le Lieutenant Mirkowitch, arrivé à Bourgas, fut renvoyé par le Général Stolipine, auquel il se présenta, au Capitaine d'Artillerie Sodano, Commandant l'Arsenal de Bourgas. Il apprit de cet officier que le Gouvernement avait envoyé d'Odessa à Bourgas 16,774 colis, chaque colis contenant 870 cartouches, soit 14,593,380; ces cartouches, ainsi que les fusils déposés à Bourgas, furent envoyés à Slivno; le Lieutenant Mirkowitch se rendit alors dans cette dernière localité; à peine arrivé il apprit que les cartouches et les fusils avaient été aussitôt remis au Comité de la Société Gymnastique.

Le Directeur de ce Comité, auquel il s'empressa de rendre visite, lui dit que c'était bien aux Comités qu'avaient été donnés ces cartouches et les fusils, mais que si le Général avait besoin de quelques-uns pour la frontière, il se ferait un plaisir de les lui offrir.

Je n'ai pas besoin, M. le Gouverneur-Général, d'insister sur l'étrangeté de cette proposition.

J'apprends à l'instant que 6,000,000 de cartouches étaient encore attendues à Bourgas; je serai fort reconnaissant que votre Excellence voulut bien prendre des mesures pour que ce nouvel envoi ait une autre destination plus en rapport avec le Statut qui nous régit.

Inclosure 2 in No. 499.

Report by Lieutenant Mirkowitch.

Philippopoli, le 4/5 Juillet, 1879.

J'AI l'honneur de faire savoir à votre Excellence qu'à Bourgas rien n'existe en fait de fusils et cartouches.

Je me suis présenté au Capitaine Sodano, lequel était chargé de l'Arsenal de Bourgas. Les renseignements qu'il m'a donné sont que la Russie a envoyé d'Odessa à Bourgas 16,774 colis, chaque colis contenant 870 cartouches, ce qui fait 14,593,380 cartouches.

Toutes ces cartouches ont été sur des ordres supérieures envoyées à Slivno, ainsi que tous les fusils déposés dans la ville de Bourgas.

Je me suis immédiatement rendu à Slivno et ai demandé le Président de la Société Gymnastique, lequel m'a fait savoir qu'en effet il avait reçu les fusils et les cartouches, mais que d'après les documents en sa possession tous ces fusils et cartouches étaient destinées aux Sociétés Gymnastiques, qu'en conséquence il les avait remis aux droujines* des Sociétés Gymnastiques. De sorte que l'Arsenal de Slivno ne contient ni cartouches ni fusils.

Les instruments de génie que la Russie a fait cadeau à la Roumélie Orientale

* Regiments.

ont été transportés à Philippopoli par voie du chemin de fer, et se trouvent dans la Cour de l'Etat-Major.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) MIRKOWITCH.

Pour copié conforme à l'original certifié :
Le Lieutenant-Colonel Chef d'Etat-Major,
(Signé) Bon E. DE TOUSTAINT.

No. 500.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 91.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, July 19, 1879.*

GENERAL VITALIS states that the alleged disturbance at Buyuk-Derbent was nothing but a false alarm, and that neither there, nor at Hermanli, had any disorders taken place.

He thinks that the telegraphic report from Slivno, which had compelled him to send a force of 512 militia to Buyuk-Derbent, is part of a systematic endeavour, both to cause him annoyance, and to make Europe believe that the population of this province is in an excited state, under an apprehension of Turkish incursions and outrages.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 501.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 92. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, July 19, 1879.*

I FEAR that the new inquiry into the outrage on the Jews at Carlovo is not proceeding very favourably for the cause of justice and toleration in this province.

M. Veneziani, Sen., the Agent of the Jewish Alliance, arrived here from Constantinople a few days ago with the evident intention of endeavouring to reinstate the Jews in the possession of their property in Eastern Roumelia by the exercise of conciliatory language and means.

The Jewish women who have recently been examined by the Commission of Inquiry are stated by Aleko Pasha to have given testimony entirely in keeping with the first Report of the Commission.

As the second inquiry may thus possibly prove abortive, and as it may, moreover, place in an awkward position those who have urged its necessity on the Governor-General, my German colleague has telegraphed to his Government for instructions as to the course which he should pursue in this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 502.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 92 A.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, July 19, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 51 of the 11th instant, I have ascertained that the sum of £ T. 15,000 therein mentioned as having been voted by the Council is

destined, principally, if not entirely, for the indemnification of Bulgarians who have occupied the houses of Turkish refugees, and who are being called upon to vacate them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 503.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 93.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, July* 19, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the minutes of the meeting of the European Commission, held on the 16th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 503.

Compte-rendu.—Séance No. 73, tenue le $\frac{4}{16}$ Juillet, 1879 (27 Redjeb, 1296), au Consulat-Général de Russie à Philippopoli.

Présidence du Prince TZERETELEW.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring,
M. de Coutouly.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. Michell.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha,
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 3 heures du soir.

Le compte-rendu de la dernière séance, lu par M. Rozet, est adopté.

Le Président dépose sur le bureau les reçus délivrés par les personnes déléguées par le Gouverneur-Général pour la réception des Caisses centrale et d'arrondissement de Philippopoli.

M. de Coutouly dit que son Excellence Aleko Pacha donnera une décharge générale dès que les reçus particuliers de toutes les autres Caisses d'arrondissement auront été centralisés à la Direction des Finances.

Le Président communique à l'Assemblée une lettre par laquelle M Schmidt prie la Commission d'autoriser le paiement des loyers dus aux propriétaires des maisons occupées par les diverses Administrations de l'ancienne Direction des Finances.

La Commission, considérant que la dépense en question fait partie des frais de liquidation de son Administration, autorise ce paiement. Le chiffre de la dépense

devra lui être communiqué. Le Président est chargé de porter cette décision à la connaissance de M. Schmidt.

Le Président rappelle que les travaux de la Commission ont été interrompus parce que les instructions des Commissaires au sujet de leur nouveau mandat ne concordaient pas. Il annonce que, pour sa part, il est autorisé à se rallier à l'opinion de la majorité de ses collègues, telle qu'elle a été énoncée jusqu'ici pendant les discussions relatives aux trois questions posées par Sir H. Drummond Wolff à la soixante-huitième séance.

Le Commissaire de France annonce que, pour faciliter la reprise de travaux de la Commission, le Gouvernement Français, tout en regrettant que la formule adoptée par les Cabinets de Paris et de Saint-Pétersbourg n'ait pas obtenu l'assentiment unanime des Puissances, a autorisé son Représentant à se rallier à l'opinion de la majorité des Commissaires, d'après laquelle les avis de la Commission ne doivent pas être obligatoires pour le Gouverneur-Général, à moins qu'il ne s'agisse de l'appel des troupes Ottomanes dans la province.

Les Commissaires de Turquie donnent lecture de la déclaration suivante :—

"Les Commissaires Ottomans, munis de leurs instructions, déclarent que les décisions de la Commission doivent être obligatoires pour le Gouverneur-Général, tant qu'elles seront prises à l'unanimité des voix ; que la majorité absolue des voix ne doit rendre ces décisions que facultives pour le Gouverneur-Général ; que quant à l'entrée des troupes Ottomanes dans la province, cette éventualité étant prévue par le Traité de Berlin, la Commission ne saurait adopter aucune résolution qui serait de nature à entraver l'exécution des dispositions y relatives ; et que pour les cas spéciaux ils se réservent de demander les instructions spéciales de la Sublime Porte."

Le Prince Tzeretelew constate qu'il existe une contradiction évidente entre ce que viennent de dire les Commissaires de Turquie et les opinions concordantes des Délégués des six autres Puissances.

Le Baron de Ring rappelle que l'idée de subordonner au jugement de la Commission l'appel des troupes Ottomanes a été mis en avant pour la première fois par Sir H. Drummond Wolff dans la séance du 21 Mai ; qu'elle a été discutée par les Cabinets Européens qui s'y sont tous ralliés ; que les Ministres du Sultan, quand les instructions données par les Cabinets à leurs Commissaires respectifs leur ont été communiquées, n'ont formulé aucune objection ; et qu'il est mal aisé de comprendre pourquoi la Sublime Porte soulève des difficultés à la dernière heure :

"Probablement," dit le Commissaire de France, "la question de l'entrée des troupes Ottomanes ne se posera point ; néanmoins le droit revendiqué pour la Commission a une réelle importance politique ; d'abord parce qu'il est de nature à rassurer les populations, puis, parce qu'il assure à l'Europe un contrôle sur le Gouverneur-Général qui, à l'abri de l'Article XVI du Traité de Berlin, pourrait laisser le désordre s'établir dans le pays sans appeler les troupes Ottomanes. Mon Gouvernement, en m'envoyant de nouvelles instructions, considérait comme un point acquis le droit de la Commission d'intervenir à propos de l'appel des troupes."

Le Président propose comme base du débat sur la question de la compétence de la Commission les trois questions posées par Sir Henry Drummond Wolff à la séance du 21 Mai. Il juge utile de les relire :—

"*Question No.* 1.—Le Gouverneur-Général s'il juge nécessaire d'appeler les troupes Turques dans la province pour y maintenir l'ordre ou pour affermir l'autorité du Sultan, doit-il au préalable prendre l'avis de la Commission ?

"*Question No.* 2.—La Commission doit-elle émettre un avis toutes les fois qu'elle est consultée par le Gouverneur-Général ?

"*Question No.* 3.—La Commission doit-elle décider de toutes les questions à la majorité ou à l'unanimité des voix ?"

Après une discussion à laquelle prennent part tous les Commissaires, *le Baron de Ring* soumet à l'appréciation de l'Assemblée la rédaction suivante, définissant en trois Articles le nouveau mandat de la Commission :—

"1. La Commission est tenue de s'énoncer sur toutes les questions qui lui sont posées par le Gouverneur-Général. Elle peut, sur l'initiative d'un de ses membres, adresser à ce dignitaire des avis sur toute matière ayant trait à l'application du Statut Organique.

"2. Dans toutes les questions ayant trait à l'application du Statut Organique la Commission prendra ses décisions à la majorité absolue de quatre voix.

"Ces décisions auront un caractère purement consultatif.

"Elles ne deviendront obligatoires pour le Gouverneur-Général que si elles sont adoptées à l'unanimité.

"3. Les avis de la Commission émis à la majorité absolue des voix sur l'opportunité d'appeler les troupes Ottomanes dans la province sont obligatoires pour le Gouverneur-Général."

Le Président consulte la Commission sur le premier article.

Les Commissaires d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, de la Grande Bretagne, d'Italie, et de Russie acceptent.

Les Commissaires de Turquie l'acceptent également, mais font remarquer qu'ils excluent du cercle de la compétence de la Commission l'interprétation du Statut Organique.

Le Président consulte l'Assemblée sur le deuxième Article.

Les deux premiers alinéas sont adoptés à l'unanimité.

Le troisième alinéa est voté par les Commissaires de France, de Russie, et de Turquie.

M. de Kallay dit que, tout en n'ayant personnellement aucune objection contre cet alinéa, il désirerait avant de le voter consulter son Gouvernement, parce que dans les instructions qu'il possède le cas n'est pas prévu.

Les Délégués de la Grande Bretagne et d'Italie s'énoncent dans le même sens que M. de Kallay.

M. de Braunschweig réserve son vote

Le Président consulte l'Assemblée sur le troisième Article.

Six Commissaires l'acceptent.

Les Délégués de Turquie, s'en référant à leur déclaration précédente, réservent leur vote. Sur la prière des autres Commissaires, ils s'engagent à demander des instructions à leur Gouvernement et à les communiquer à la Commission.

M. de Kallay demande qu'il soit bien entendu que le réglement intérieur de la Commission est maintenu pour autant que le deuxième article proposé par le Baron de Ring ne le modifie point.

Le Président constate que l'accord n'a pu s'établir sur une rédaction définissant la compétence de la Commission: "Celle-ci," ajoute-t-il, "est en ce moment appelée à s'occuper de deux questions spéciales. D'un côté le Gouverneur-Général, par sa lettre de $\frac{18}{26}$ Juin, a demandé notre avis sur l'interprétation des Articles 7, 17, 19, 51, et 198 du Statut Organique; d'un autre côté certains habitants de la Roumélie Orientale ont présenté une pétition qui se rattache également à l'application du Statut Organique. En présence du désaccord des Commissaires au sujet de notre compétence, mon avis est qu'une discussion sur ces affaires ne saurait aboutir."

Le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie admet, comme le Président, qu'un accord n'a pu s'établir; mais comme il voudrait rendre possible les travaux de la Commission et qu'il pense que la question de l'appel des troupes Turques n'a aucun intérêt d'actualité, il croit que la Commission pourrait, tout en laissant ce point ouvert, passer à l'examen des questions spéciales. En même temps M. de Kallay déclare que si la réserve faite par lui à propos du troisième alinéa du deuxième Article était le seul obstacle apporté aux travaux de la Commission, il prendrait sur lui de retirer cette réserve.

Les Commissaires d'Allemagne, de la Grande Bretagne, et d'Italie font la même declaration.

Le Commissaire de France croit que de toute façon la Commission est arrêtée par la réserve des Délégués de Turquie à propos du droit de la Commission d'interpréter le Statut Organique.

M. de Kallay prie les Commissaires de Turquie de vouloir bien expliquer à la Commission ce qu'ils entendent par le mot "interprétation."

Abro Effendi répond que, d'après lui, on interprète un Article lorsqu'ayant sous les yeux le texte d'une disposition on l'explique de manière à en déduire des conséquences que n'entraient pas dans les intentions de l'auteur. Le Statut Organique ayant été promulgué par Sa Majesté le Sultan, le droit de l'interpréter appartient exclusivement à la Sublime Porte.

M. de Kallay demande aux Commissaires de Turquie si, tout en maintenant leur opinion, ils se croient autorisés à discuter les questions spéciales dont a fait mention le Prince Tzeretelew.

Les Délégués Ottomans déclarent que, comme il s'agirait d'interpréter le Statut Organique et qu'ils n'ont reçu aucune instruction spéciale à ce sujet, ils ne sont pas en mesure d'aborder un débat de ce genre.

Le Président propose à l'Assemblée la motion suivante:—

"Après les déclarations faites par les Commissaires Ottomans au sujet de l'interprétation du Statut Organique, la Commission ne croit pas possible d'entrer pour le moment dans la discussion sur les deux questions précitées, et s'ajourne jusqu'à la réception de nouvelles instructions par Messieurs les Commissaires de Turquie."

Cette motion est adoptée à l'unanimité.

La séance est levée à 7 heures du soir.

(Signé) TZERETELEW.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KALLAY.
RING.
COUTOULY.
MICHELL.
VERNONI.
ASSIM.
ABRO.

Certifié conforme à l'original:
(Signé) ROZEF.
ISVOLSKY.
SELIM.

No. 504.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 29.)

(No. 619. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 16, 1879.

M. CHRISTICH, the Servian Minister, called upon me this morning, in pursuance of instructions from M. Ristich, he said, to explain the reasons why the Servian Government could not permit the Porte to name a Consul at Nisch before a Consular Convention had been concluded between Turkey and Servia. He showed me a draft of a Convention he had submitted to the Porte, which appeared to me to be in the usual form. It authorizes the appointment by both countries of Consuls-General, Consuls, Vice-Consuls, and Consular Agents, in their respective dominions, with powers similar to those granted by Treaties with the most favoured nation. M. Christich observed that the proposed Convention was very simple, and could not possibly give rise to any prolonged discussion or negotiation, if the Porte were really acting in good faith. But M. Ristich suspected that the Turkish Government had no intention of permitting Servia to name Consuls in Turkey, and that, if he agreed to accept a Turkish Consul at Nisch before the Convention were signed, it would not be concluded at all. Consequently he declined to accede to the request of the Porte on this point.

M. Christich called my attention to the XLth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, which provides that "until the conclusion of a Treaty between Turkey and Servia, Servian subjects travelling or sojourning in the Ottoman Empire should be treated according to the general principles of International Law." He remarked to me that the significance of this Article appears to have escaped the Congress; that it had been evidently transferred by Russia from the Treaty of San Stefano to that of Berlin, in order to contrast the position of the Servians with that of the Bulgarians, to the prejudice of the former, and to cause bad blood between them. It was evident, M. Christich said, that until the Porte chose to conclude a Treaty with Servia, Servian subjects would hold a very unfavourable position in the Turkish dominions, and would be entitled to none of the privileges which are accorded to Bulgarians and the subjects of other nations having Treaties with Turkey. It was probably the object of the Porte that they should not be so entitled, and hence its persistence in wishing to name a Consul at Nisch before concluding a Convention.

I suggested to M. Christich that, considering the position of the Mussulmans in the district of Nisch, and the important interests they had at stake, the Servian Government might permit the provisional appointment of a Turkish Consular officer there, and might make his permanent residence there conditional on the conclusion of a Convention. But he seemed to think that his Government would not be disposed to come to any compromise on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 505.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 622.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July* 17, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a document which I have received from the Porte stating the measures that have been taken by the Imperial authorities to ensure tranquillity on the Servian frontier, and to facilitate the labours of the Delimitation Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 505.

Note Verbale.

Sublime Porte [*undated.*]

IL résulte des renseignements fournis au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères que les mesures nécessaires ont été prises dans le Vilayet de Kossovo pour prévenir toute nouvelle tentative de désordre sur la frontière Serbe et assurer les travaux de la Commission de Délimitation. A cet effet un détachement mobile a été organisé pour escorter la Commission, et le Commandant militaire a été chargé de procéder en personne à une inspection des points importants de la ligne afin d'y compléter les moyens de sécurité.

Les dispositions adoptées par les autorités sont ainsi de nature à calmer toute appréhension de nouveaux désordres ou de quelque empêchement aux travaux de la Commission.

No. 506.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 623.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July* 17, 1879.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 876 of the 7th instant, your Lordship will, I think, find from my recent despatches and telegrams to your Lordship with reference to the affairs of Zeitoun that I have anticipated all your Lordship's instructions in this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 507.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 625.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July* 18, 1879.

IN answer to my inquiry of Carathéodory Pasha whether the Porte had taken any steps to recall Aleko Pasha to a sense of his duty, and to put a stop to his proceedings, of which, I understood, the Turkish Commissioners at Philippopolis had urgently complained, his Excellency answered that the moment the province was entirely free of the Russians the Porte fully meant to occupy Bourgas, and to give Aleko Pasha clearly to understand that he must act and govern according to the legitimate wishes of the Imperial Government, failing which he would be forced to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 508.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 626.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July* 18, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 475 of the 11th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Consul-General Palgrave relating to the complaints which have been received respecting the appropriation of Mussulman property by Bulgarians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 508.

Consul-General Palgrave to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Sofia, June* 24, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 11th instant, inclosing the copy of a letter respecting the appropriation of Mussulman property by Bulgarians in the Sandjak of Sofia.

As the laws of the Principality recognize no distinction between Bulgarian subjects, whether Mussulman or Christian, it is evident that all claims, reclamations, and the like, regarding property within this territory must be referred, where Bulgarian subjects are concerned, to the legally constituted authorities of the Principality itself, by whom they will be duly attended to. Should my influence appear desirable or necessary towards the ends of justice, it shall be brought to bear accordingly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. G. PALGRAVE.

No. 509.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 627.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July* 18, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 489 of the 12th June last, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul-General Palgrave denying that any preparations are making in Bulgaria for an invasion of Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 509.

Consul-General Palgrave to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Sofia, June* 20, 1879.

IN reply to your Excellency's despatch of the 12th instant regarding Panslavist and revolutionary agents reported to be engaged at Sofia and elsewhere in Bulgaria in making preparations for an approaching invasion of Macedonia, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that these rumours are, happily, absolutely without foundation.

No intention, or even idea, of so utterly impossible and absurd a project as the invasion of Macedonia, or, indeed, of any neighbouring province, exists here, though it is true that a certain degree of apprehension is felt regarding the possibility of an invasion of the Principality by the Turkish troops and irregulars, who have, indeed, already effected some little plundering forays from across the frontier of Macedonia. Such precautions as common sense suggests have, however, been taken to protect the border, and it is hoped that aggression, if attempted, may be promptly repelled; from the Bulgarian side none will or can take place.

Panslavist agitators, did any such exist, would be as ineffective as in Belgium or

Holland. The inhabitants of the Principality have no sympathy or care for any race whatever outside, being fully and sufficiently occupied with their own affairs—their internal organization and their local interests. Revolutionary agents, were they to attempt anything, would be strangely out of place among a people the chief desire and expectancy of which at the present moment is the arrival and installation of its legitimate Prince.

It is accordingly with pleasure that I can assure your Excellency that the alarming reports which have reached Constantinople are mere inventions, and that no anxiety whatever need be felt on this account.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. G. PALGRAVE.

No. 510.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 29.)

(No. 628.)
My Lord,

Therapia, July 19, 1879.

WITH reference to Mr. Consul-General Blunt's despatch to me of the 14th instant, copy of which has been sent to your Lordship, I have the honour to state that the Mufti of Tashlidja, to whom it relates, was sent for to Constantinople by the Porte, on the urgent demand of Count Zichy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 511.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 29.)

(No. 633.)
My Lord,

Therapia, July 19, 1879.

MR. VICE-CONSUL IAGO having on more than one occasion reported the corruption prevailing in the Criminal Court at Damascus, which rendered it impossible for British complainants to obtain the slightest redress, and indicated more especially Salih Effendi, President of the Medjliss Temiss of Damascus, and Mohammed Emin Effendi, Judge of the Medjliss of Malleka, as two of the most corrupt and incompetent of the judicial authorities there, representations were made, both by Mr. Malet and myself, to the Porte on the subject. I have now received a note from the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, informing me that both these officials have been dismissed from their posts, and that they will be arraigned before a Court of Justice to answer the charges brought against them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 511.

Note Verbale.

Sublime Porte, le 17 *Juillet*, 1879.

EN *réponse à la note verbale* que l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique a bien voulu lui adresser le 5 Avril, le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères a l'honneur de l'informer que d'après un rapport du Département de la Justice, Salih Effendi a été, à la suite des faits portés à sa charge, révoqué de ses fonctions de Président du Medjlisse-Temeziz de Damas, et sera traduit en justice avec Mehmed Emin Effendi, Naïb de Malleka, pour répondre des actes qui leur sont imputés. Si donc Mr. Ralfrez ou d'autres sujets Anglais ont des griefs à faire valoir contre eux ils n'ont qu'à s'adresser à la Cour qui sera appelée à les juger.

No. 512.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 29.)

(No. 635.)
My Lord,

Therapia, July 20, 1879.

MR. PALGRAVE having sent me a copy of his despatch to your Lordship No. 101 of the 9th ultimo, relative to the state of affairs in Macedonia, I directed Consul-General Blunt to verify the statements contained in it. I have now the honour to inclose copy of a Report which he has addressed to me on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 512.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir,

Salonica, July 6, 1879.

WITH reference to Mr. Consul-General Palgrave's despatch to Lord Salisbury relative to the state of affairs existing in Macedonia, to which your Excellency has directed my attention in your despatch of the 24th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the despatches which I addressed to Her Majesty's Embassy,* and Colonel Synge's Report, which I forwarded to your Excellency in my despatch of the 10th May last, give some particulars of the origin and proceedings of the band of Stoyan or Stoyanoff, mentioned by Mr. Palgrave as having occupied a position commanding the main route from Salonica north.

It appears that this band was organized in the district of Djuma, when that place was in possession of the Russian troops, whence it penetrated into Macedonia in April last, and tried to incite the Christian inhabitants to rise against the Turkish rule. Crossing over the mountains into the valley of the Vardar, it attempted to occupy the railway at Gengheli, but was prevented from so doing by the timely arrival of troops on the spot, and after a short engagement was forced to take refuge in the mountains in the direction of Florine, in Sandjak of Monastir, where it was eventually almost completely destroyed by the military sent in pursuit by Muhtar Pasha. More than 100 of the marauders were killed and as many captured by the troops. Thirty of the prisoners have been brought to Salonica, the remainder were conducted to Larissa and Monastir. Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Longworth, who happened to be present at the examination of one of the prisoners by the military authorities at Larissa, refers to the matter as follows, in his letter of the 28th May last:—

"The other day a Bulgarian was brought here as prisoner from some place near Monastir. On his arrival at Larissa I happened to be with the military authorities, who questioned him before me. He confessed openly that he belonged to a band of Bulgarian insurgents, numbering over 100 men, and commanded by Russian officers in uniform, who kept up a regular correspondence with the Russian military authorities in Bulgaria.

"That this band and several others in those parts were undergoing drill; that they were armed with three or four different kinds of rifles, and that, although they received only bread they were promised money too, if they would not molest the Christian inhabitants."

I am further assured that the evidence given by some of the other prisoners, both here and at Monastir, also associates the Russian military authorities at Djuma and Kustendil in the late filibustering expedition, for it was nothing else, and unmasks the intrigues of the Bulgarian Archbishop of Ochrida, who resides at Kustendil, in connection with this and similar disturbances in Macedonia.

It was through the revelations of one of the prisoners, native of a village in the diocese of the above-named Prelate, that Muhtar Pasha succeeded in apprehending more than twenty individuals, among them a Russian soldier, who admitted having been recruited by the Archbishop for the purpose of effecting the annexation of Macedonia to Bulgaria. I hope in a short time to receive and forward to your Excellency some further and more reliable information from Monastir in connection with the above circumstance.

I have not heard of the conflicts referred to by Mr. Palgrave, in which the regular

* April 16, 23, 27, May 10, and June 22, 1879.

troops have been worsted by the Bulgarian outlaws, unless he means those which occurred in October and November 1878, and which I reported to your Excellency from Larissa; and as to the report that these bands have twice attacked and attempted to set fire to the town of Uskub, I am satisfied, from all I hear, that it is absolutely without any foundation.

Not only the Ottoman authorities, but several of my acquaintances—among them an English gentleman connected with one of the leading London newspapers, who recently visited Uskub between the 20th and 30th ultimo—have assured me that although brigandage was rife in that part of the country, the town of Uskub was quiet, and has suffered no molestation whatever.

The fact is that the Revolutionary Committees, euphemistically styled "Gymnastic Societies," which were organized last year in Bulgaria for the purpose of agitating for the annexation of Roumelia and Macedonia, and otherwise disturbing the arrangements made by the Treaty of Berlin, made more than one attempt to foment insurrection in Macedonia, attempts which have signally failed, from the simple reason that the Christian inhabitants, both Greeks and Bulgarians, however strong their aversion to the Turkish rule may be, were and are not prepared to take part in such movements. For instance, of the inhabitants of the large district of Strounnitza, who are almost exclusively Bulgarians, or "Bulgaro-phons," as the Greeks call them, because they have not broken their connection with the Greek Patriarchate of Constantinople, only six peasants joined the bands which crossed over from Djuma, viz., two from the village of Novo-Cello (Dimitry, the son of Papa-Giorgi, and Bagos), two from that of Sraïtovo, one from Gradoshor, and another (Jovan) from Nivitchon.

The Bulgarians also of most of the other districts of Macedonia would not participate in the movement; in some districts they even co-operated with the troops against it. It was only in the districts in the immediate vicinity of the border where the bands obtained the ascendance by the system of terrorism which marked their proceedings, that the peasants, more from fear than anything else, joined the movement, or, as was more generally the case, took refuge in Bulgaria.

The district of Djuma, owing to its situation and the fact that it was to return under Turkish rule, was made the base of hostile operations across the border. It was there the bands were mustered, drilled, and armed, and it was from there they penetrated into Macedonia with the knowledge and countenance of the Bulgaro-Russian authorities.

Many of its inhabitants, influenced by promises of Russian protection and support if they clamoured for annexation with Bulgaria, assisted the bands; and as they feel that they are more or less compromised in the wholesale incendiarism and other excesses which were committed against the Mahommedan villages on this side of the border, have left the place with the Russian troops and taken refuge in Bulgaria. But the scales will fall from the eyes of this misguided people so soon as Djuma is occupied by the Turks; and I feel sure that when they will clearly see that the eccentric promises of the Archbishop of Ochrida and the Bulgarian Committees cannot be realized, and are convinced that the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin, and not those of San Stefano, will be respected and carried out, most of them will come back to their homes and meet with better treatment from the Ottoman authorities than has been extended to the fugitive Mahommedans who have ventured to return to Bulgaria and Roumelia. And in this connection I have not failed to press upon Safvet Pasha, the Commander-in-chief, and Rifhat Pasha, the Governor-General of Salonica, in whose jurisdiction Djuma is included, the importance of making timely arrangements, so as to be prepared to occupy that district without the danger of causing any outbreak, and I have also recommended them to pursue a conciliatory policy towards the Bulgarians and protect them from molestation.

They have both assured me that the most stringent instructions to the above effect have been sent to the competent authorities, and Safvet Pasha has directed Suleiman Pasha, the General in command at Menlik, to hold himself in readiness to proceed to Djuma with four battalions of regulars immediately he hears of the arrival there of the European Commission for the demarcation of the frontier.

From all I hear, Suleiman Pasha is a humane and prudent officer, and I have no doubt that his presence at Djuma will exert a beneficial influence on the local authorities, and on the sentiments and attitude of the Mahommedan inhabitants.

The Porte, however, should select an efficient and trustworthy official to fill the the post of Kaimakam, or Civil Governor, and furnish him with instructions for his guidance in his relations with the Bulgarian border authorities and his dealings with the Bulgarian inhabitants, especially those who may return to their homes. In the

meantime, pending the appointment and arrival of this Governor, it would be well, I venture to suggest, if Suleiman Pasha were entrusted with the administration of the district.

In conclusion, I should report that, owing to the circumstances I have described, brigandage has assumed serious dimensions in the Sandjaks of Useup, Serres, and Drama.

There are still remnants of the late insurrectionary bands causing abundant injury to the inhabitants of the border districts.

When pursued, these marauders take refuge in Bulgaria or Roumelia, where, from all I hear, they are allowed to remain at large, and to resume their depredations at the first favourable opportunity; at least, this occurred till very lately. I am also assured by persons who have visited the interior that while the proceedings of these outlaws are countenanced by the Russo-Bulgarian authorities, the Ottoman authorities, on their side, partly from not having sufficient troops on the spot and a properly-organized police, and partly from a wish to avoid all possibility of complications with the Russian troops, have so far pursued a defensive and indulgent policy in their border relations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

P.S.—After writing the above, I received a despatch, of which the inclosed is an extract, from the Acting British Vice-Consul at Cavalla, relative to the Bulgarian bands in his district.

J. E. B.

Inclosure 2 in No. 512.

Acting Vice-Consul Pecchioli to Consul-General Blunt.

(Extract.) *Cavalla, June 30, 1879.*

VOICI ce qu'on peut considérer comme certain :—

1. Des bandes Bulgares entres Serres et les extrêmes limites de notre province (Drama) existent ayant un caractère de brigandage politique.

2. Le Gouvernement ayant envoyé des soldats et des irréguliers pour combattre ces bandes et les empêcher de se joindre, se fortifier et avancer, elles seraient repliées en partie sur Razlog et en partie sur le Mont Pangée.

3. La nouvelle que j'ai porté à votre connaissance relative à la maison Combotti est vraie.

4. En général on croit que le mouvement Bulgare soit moins étendu de ce qu'on veut faire croire.

No. 513.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 638.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 20, 1879.*

IN the beginning of June last I received a telegram in Turkish from a certain Achmet Tchaoush, who styled himself representative of the refugees of Loftcha, complaining of outrages committed by Bulgarians on Mussulmans in the district of Uskub. I instructed Mr. Consul-General Blunt to inquire into the truth of these statements, and have the honour to inclose a copy of his reply, from which it would appear that Achmet Tchaoush's complaints are but too well founded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 513.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Salonica, July 8, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 14th ultimo, relative to the outrages complained of by the Mussulman refugees in the district of Uskub, and now have the honour to report to your Excellency the result of the inquiries which I have made and caused to be made into each case.

My Italian colleague, M. Lambertenste, who kindly undertook to inquire into the alleged massacre of thirteen Mahommedan women at Lepopitza, has furnished me with the following Report received from his correspondent there:—

"*Uscub, le* 1*er Juillet*, 1879.

"J'ai reçu votre lettre et j'ai voulu m'informer avant de vous répondre. Tout est vrai; c'est au village de Leppetza, Caza de Kutchann, que les Bulgares ont massacré quatre enfants, quatre femmes, et trois vieux. Huit de ces Bulgares ont été arrêtés et sont en prison."

I have also learnt from other sources that this horrible outrage was planned and executed by a band of 100 Bulgarians, under the leadership of a Bulgarian priest, and that the unfortunate victims were Mussulman refugees from the district of Lofteha, who were located in the village of Lepopitza by the Turkish authorities.

With reference to the case of Hassan Effendi, it appears that he was a clerk of the Cadi of Kotchana, by whom he was sent to the village of Brebatch, about 3 miles from that town, to register some property. He was seized the night of his arrival there by seven Bulgarians, and carried off, together with the village guard, Ali, to the mountain of Blazkovitch, where he was killed by yataghans, and not burnt alive, as stated in the telegram.

The guard Ali was also murdered. One of the outragers has been apprehended by the authorities of Uskub.

I should add that the victims in this case were not refugees.

The facts of the third case, as far as they can be gathered at present, appear to be as follows:—

About the 20th March the son of the schoolmaster of Palanga, three of the Mahommedan refugees of Kustendil, and two Christian Kirajis, six persons in all, were waylaid and murdered on the road between Kratowa and Palanga by a band of Bulgarians.

A detachment of troops, which was sent in pursuit, has apprehended ten Bulgarians, who are strongly suspected of being implicated in this outrage.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 514.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 639.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 20, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a note I have addressed to the Porte, calling attention to the absence of Europeans among the recent appointments of judicial officers and of Inspectors of Tribunals in the provinces.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 514.

Note Verbale.

Therapia, July 17, 1879.

THE attention of Her Majesty's Ambassador has been called to the recent appointments of judicial officers and of Inspectors of the Tribunals in the provinces made by the Ministers of Justice, and published officially in the Turkish newspapers. He regrets to find that amongst them no European is included. Her Majesty's Ambassador must remind the Porte that, in the note of Safvet Pasha of the 24th October last it is stated that "Foreigners having the necessary special knowledge might be included amongst the Judicial Inspectors which the Imperial Government proposes to send to each vilayet to control the administration of justice."

Her Majesty's Ambassador trusts that the Sublime Porte will not fail to put into execution the reform, to which Her Majesty's Government attach very great importance, and upon which they are entitled to insist.

No. 515.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 640.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 20, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a *note verbale* I have addressed to the Porte, urging the desirability of employing European officers in the organization of the gendarmerie for the Province of Erzeroum.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 515.

Note Verbale.

Therapia, July 17, 1879.

HER Majesty's Ambassador understands that a scheme for the organization of the gendarmerie for the Vilayet of Erzeroum has been submitted to the Porte by the Imperial Commission sent to inquire into the condition of that province, and to propose reforms for its better administration.

Such being the case, it is his duty to remind the Sublime Porte of the promise given by his Highness Safvet Pasha in his note of the 24th October last to Her Majesty's Government, that the Sublime Porte would introduce into the Central Council of Administration of the Gendarmerie European officers, and would also take into its service foreign officers as instructors, until the gendarmerie should be completely organized.

The organization of an effective gendarmerie for the Vilayet of Erzeroum is especially desirable, in consequence of the unsatisfactory condition of the province, and the ill-treatment and oppression of the Christian population by the local Mussulman Chiefs. Her Majesty's Ambassador consequently expresses his confident hope that the Sublime Porte will employ European officers for this purpose, according to the pledge given by it to Her Majesty's Government.

No. 516.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 641.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 20, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Lieutenant de Wolski, reporting that Major Gordon had been obliged to leave the Eastern Roumelian Boundary Commission on account of illness. He states, however, that the remainder of the frontier to be traced is a well-defined watershed about which there can be no doubt.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 516.

Lieutenant de Wolski to Sir A. H. Layard.

Rhodope, two marches south of Batak, July 12, 1879.

Sir,

I AM desired by Major Gordon to inform your Excellency that he is suffering from the effects of the severe chill caught in the neighbourhood of Krushova Dagh, and that the state of his health compels him to return by easy stages to Philippopolis.

The remainder of the frontier, a length of about 80 kilom., has been lately traversed by me, and a reconnaissance sketch made of the greater portion of it. It is a clearly-defined watershed, of which there can be no possible doubt.

The Commissioners having the sketches of the frontier, and a Turkish officer who accompanied me on the reconnaissance with them, do not consider it necessary for me to go over the ground with them. They strongly object to my leaving Major Gordon in his present condition to find his way down to the plain alone, and have almost insisted on my accompanying him to Constantinople.

Although quite unfit to continue his labours with the Commission for the present, the state of Major Gordon's health causes me no anxiety.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. R. DE WOLSKI.

No. 517.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 642.)

My Lord,

Therapia, July 29, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a further despatch from Lieutenant Chermside relative to the proceedings of the Zeitoun Commission.

As your Lordship is aware, I am taking all necessary action in the matter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 517.

Lieutenant Chermside to Sir A. H. Layard.

Aleppo, July 10, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Excellency's information, the following details as to the doings of the Reform Commission. A general Report has been sent off, giving an account of all their proceedings from the date of their arrival at Aleppo up to the opening of the Central Commission of members from the various districts, which took place on the 30th June.

I think it likely that this document, the French translation of which has been carefully prepared, and which has been read over to me, is intended for the perusal of Representatives of the Powers, and that very possibly copies may be furnished to the Embassies.

Should this prove to be the case, and your Excellency wish for any further remarks from me, I must inform you that I have not a copy. The Report shows the action of the Commission to be open to very severe criticism, as, in spite of specious phrases, and its glibness, fluency, and plausibility, it necessarily fails to conceal the utter absence of any tangible result.

At the same time, its repeated allusions to the orders of the Porte, and the way in which the Commissioners' references to it have been treated, tend very much to modify the share of blame that, owing to the utter futility of their labours hitherto, must be imputed to them.

The Report deals first with the question of assembling this local Commission, the general state of this country, the names of the functionaries whom it has suspended and summoned, and investigations into whose conduct by local Commissions it has instituted. It subsequently speaks honestly and clearly of the chronic and universal abuse of justice, and of the unsatisfactory state of the Tribunals, and of the extreme rarity of any enforcement of the penal code.

It goes on to treat of the miserable condition and insufficient accommodation of the prisons, and of the venality of the gaolers. Passing to the gendarmerie, it is not sparing of its strictures on the inefficiency and corruption of the existing force.

Although in the above, which is only too well known, there is nothing new, this Report, given verbatim to the Representatives of the Powers, signed as it is by two high functionaries of the Porte, and containing as it does such grave confessions of the utter disorganization and incapacity of the Administration, would, if action were taken upon it, be an earnest of the real intentions of the Porte to carry out reforms.

While, however, this Commission, professedly invested with considerable executive functions and power of initiative, has as yet failed to accomplish any material good result, while no one inquiry has been brought to a satisfactory conclusion, and while, as I have reported, I have been told how it is intended to gloss over and overlook the arbitrary and illegal acts of Government officials, whom one sees supported by hidden influences, indeed with little or no prospect of their exemplary punishment, a deterrent so sorely needed, I cannot but imagine it is rather a weapon to be adroitly used for political purposes; and the listlessness and apathy of the members of the Central Commission, and their want of faith in the probability of its action producing any good results or amelioration of the country, the avowed discouragement and disgust of the Commissioners themselves, tend to confirm this belief.

The concluding portion of the Report treats of Zeitoun matters, and this portion is eminently unsatisfactory; without being actually false, there is such a *suppressio veri*, matters are so superficially considered, and testimony and facts of a vital importance are so quietly ignored or traversed, that the withdrawing of a large amount of information necessary to the formation of a correct appreciation of the situation, the want of detail and elementary nature of the statements, seem to amount to a complete misrepresentation.

The only absolute misstatement in the document is that the petitions received (many hundreds) have been examined and redress given where necessary; this has certainly not been generally effected, and I doubt if it has been done in even one or two individual cases. The justice of my objection was admitted.

A statement that in the matter of Zeitoun taxation France and England were demanding fixed tribute is, I think, not contained in this but in another document; I imagine it to be incorrect, as I have never heard such a proposition advanced, nor, as your Excellency is aware, have I advocated it myself.

Your Excellency may, of course, never see this document, all that there is to show for three months' work.

As regards the prospect of the Commission for the improved administration of justice, they found that the present allocation was 35,000 to 37,000 piastres a-month (some 300*l.*) for the whole vilayet; this exclusive of the pay of the Naïbs or Judges.

Their proposal was to separate the ordinary local Courts into two, the Naïb (formerly the Cadi), with half the members, administering civil law, and the other half, with a Civil President, administering criminal affairs.

The members, who now receive sums of 180 piastres a-month, and in some cases up to 300 piastres, were to be better paid, to obviate the almost universal venality.

Functionaries of the nature of Procurators-General were also asked for. The additional necessary money grant was estimated at over 60,000 piastres a-month; so that the total allocation might be 100,000 piastres, or upwards of 10,000*l.* a-year.

No direct reply has been received to this; but the Vali, in common with other Valis, has received from the Porte some new instructions.

In the capital of each sandjak (three in this vilayet) only, will the civil and correctional affairs be separated; a Vice-President is to be appointed to superintend the administration of the latter.

At the capital of the province there is to be a Procureur-Général, a sort of Crown Prosecutor; and at the capital of each sandjak there is to be a similar subordinate functionary, a Procureur-Substitut. The pay of the members, &c., and all other details, remains the same.

There is a compromise, as to the necessity of which, for financial reasons, I can, of course, give no opinion; but the measure is regarded with no confidence here. It is not carried out throughout the system down to the unit "the Commune," as will be necessary if the principle be admitted at all.

An Inspector-General of Justice for the whole vilayet has been appointed. I do not know if your Excellency is aware of this appointment. The functionary nomi-

nated, Rassim Bey, is a brother of Kadri Pasha, and a native of Aintab. He has an excessively bad reputation for fanaticism, corruption, and intrigue. At Aintab he succeeded in excluding the Christians from the "Beladinja," a Municipal Council; and his intrigues at Aintab are such, that Mazhar Pasha, speaking of his appointment, said, "Well, I am glad we shall be quit of his intrigues at Aintab." He will have enormous opportunities, both for indulging his fanatic bent and amassing large sums.

As regards the gendarmerie, the project of the Imperial law formulated for the regulation of this force has been submitted to a Committee here, who have drawn up schemes for its adaptation, with local modifications.

About 50,000*l.* is the amount at present assigned to this service, with power, in case of special requirements in the Sandjaks of Lov and Marash, to add a sum of 5,000*l.* annually.

The Committee find that, in order to pay the men 150 piastres and a bread ration for a foot gendarme, 180 piastres and a bread and a barley ration for a mounted man, and 180 piastres for a town policeman per month, the existing force of 2,500 men must be reduced by 700 or 800 men, or else an additional sum of 10,000*l.* will be required.

The return and statement of service of this force, spoken of in my earlier despatches as having been called for, has proved a failure; all being represented in glowing colours, when not only is almost universal testimony concurrent as to the lamentably inefficient condition of the force, but my own experience confirms it.

The idea of any reduction of the force meets with determined opposition, even in view of the alternative of retaining the existing scale of pay; and the inference that this is due to the disclosures that would be made by the disbanded portion of the force is, at any rate, a plausible one.

The Central Commission, composed of 63 members—39 Mussulman, 22 Christian, 1 Ansari, and 1 Jew—was opened on the 30th June. The new law of the vilayets that was elaborated about the time of the last Constantinople Conference is submitted to it for discussion and for propositions on its part as to the local modifications it will be desirable to introduce. Questions as to the Tribunals have also been submitted, and the opinion of the Assembly, with only one dissentient voice, was, that until the members are better paid, and the Courts and country generally more advanced, it would be inadvisable for the Tribunals to be independent of the local authority. This seems a rather important expression of opinion.

Most of the time of the Assembly has hitherto been engaged in preliminaries. Such of the members as I have seen, however, are anything but sanguine and hopeful. Many notables are unwilling to serve; others anxious to effect their resignation; none have I met imbued with any faith as to the genuineness of their undertaking or as to the probability of any real benefits and improvements resulting from their labours. They are unpaid, even, I believe, as to travelling expenses; they have the control of no money, and even complain that they have no clerks or secretaries for the recordal of their proceedings. The presence of members from Deri, Urfa, and other distant points of the province will give me an opportunity of acquiring information as to the state of affairs in those districts, which neither the Consul or myself have visited.

I fear, from Mazhar Pasha's habits and infirmities, the probabilities of the Commission visiting such localities are rather remote. The Mutessarifs of Urfa and Deri have both been summoned in consequence of complaints against them. Those against the latter, Ali Pasha, are exceedingly numerous, and consist of documents containing no specific charges, and, according to the Consul's belief, got up against him by one man.

I much regretted the idea I heard mooted by the Commissioners of sending him to Marash; a compromise, and one that seems to put a premium on intrigue, neither acquitting a functionary who, if guilty, ought to be punished, and who, if, as the Consul believes, is perfectly innocent, ought to be confirmed in his appointment—a terribly difficult one, from all I hear, and one in which he is in absolute need of more force than is at his disposal (sixty soldiers).

No Governor has yet been appointed for Marash. It is a district where sound judgment, impartially administered, and great firmness are required, and where one really good military Governor might succeed.

Unless the growth of animosity between the different sections of the population be checked, the police controlled, and something better than the present parody of justice be introduced, and unless the Circassian question, and that of the present

disarmed condition of a portion of the population be faced and dealt with, the district will harbour dangerous germs of future trouble and disorder.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. CHERMSIDE, *Lieutenant, R.E., Military Attaché.*

No. 518.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 643.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 20, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a letter addressed to me by certain persons styling themselves "the Albanian Delegates," protesting against the cession of any portion of Albanian territory to a foreign Power.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 518.

Albanian Delegates to Sir A. H. Layard.

Excellence, *Constantinople, le 10 Juillet*, 1879.

LE peuple Albanais, depuis le réunion du Congrès de Berlin, n'a cessé d'élever sa voix pour protester par tous moyens légaux contre la cession de n'importe quelle parcelle de territoire Albanais aux autres nationalités des environs; des télégrammes, des pétitions, et des Mémorandums ont été envoyés des plusieurs points de l'Albanie aux Représentants des Puissances Européennes pour réclamer justice contre les prétentions de ses voisins, et pour demander, aux mêmes titres que les autres, non-seulement le maintien de l'intégrité de la patrie Albanaise, mais aussi pour les supplier de prendre en considération la situation actuelle, et la mettre en état de pouvoir bénéficier d'une civilisation plus avancée en lui accordant une organisation conforme à ses besoins et au caractère de ses populations.

Les arguments historiques, géographiques, et ethnographiques, qui prouvent jusqu'à l'évidence le droit du peuple Albanais, sont irrécusables; entre les calomnies de nos ennemis qui se sont efforcés de nier jusqu'à l'existence de la nationalité Albanaise, et les cris de 2,000,000 d'hommes qui demandent de vivre, de se civiliser, et d'entrer dans la voie du progrès Européen, il n'y a pas de conscience qui puisse ne pas se prononcer en faveur de notre droit.

Malgré la surexcitation des esprits, la sagesse du peuple Albanais a prévalu contre les susceptibilités et l'entraînement des passions; elle a vu la nécessité fatale de l'exécution du Traité de Berlin, et elle s'y est soumise tout en étouffant les cris de douleur que lui arrachait la séparation de tant de pays qui avaient formé depuis longtemps partie du territoire Albanais.

Mais la conscience publique de l'Albanie ne peut pas rester impassible en face des prétentions du Gouvernement Hellénique, qui veut donner une forme décisive à l'opinion émise par le Congrès relativement à la rectification de ses frontières; elle se révolte à l'idée de se laisser prendre Arta, Preveza, et Janina, par un voisin qui n'en a pas le droit, et qui n'a versé une goutte de sang pour en faire la conquête.

Du reste, ce n'est pas seulement à cause du froissement de sa dignité nationale que le peuple Albanais s'oppose aux prétentions Helléniques; c'est pour sauvegarder son existence, sa vie, sa langue, et son honneur, qu'il élève la voix pour demander justice, et pour déclarer qu'il est prêt à donner tout le sang de ses enfants pour défendre ses droits sacrés.

En perdant Arta, Preveza, et Janina, l'Albanie ne saurait plus vivre; ses positions stratégiques, les besoins matériels de ses populations, l'agriculture, l'élève des bestiaux, ses transactions commerciales, tout ce, enfin, qui concourt à procurer à un peuple les moyens honnêtes de vivre et de se développer, lui seront enlevé d'un trait de plume, et 2,000,000 d'hommes seraient condamnés à choisir entre l'alternative de se jeter dans les bras de l'Hellénisme, ou de périr d'inanition et de misère. Voilà à quoi tendent les prétentions de la Grèce, et l'Europe ne peut pas, en les appuyant, se rendre complice

d'un acte qui condamne à mort un peuple qui n'a fait du mal à qui que ce soit, et qui ne demande qu'à vivre sous l'égide du droit commun.

Votre Excellence ne doit, certes, pas ignorer que la question Gréco-Albanaise étant sur le point d'être décidée, le peuple Albanais se trouve plongé dans une anxiété des plus poignantes, et que la surexcitation et l'exaspération des esprits ont atteint leurs dernières limites. L'incertitude, la misère, et la presqu'anarchie dans laquelle il vit actuellement, sont des mobiles très-puissant pour faire éclater le désespoir de ce peuple, et pour créer un état de choses qui pourrait, comme une étincelle, allumer un grand incendie et produire une effusion de sang que les Puissances Européennes doivent empêcher dès à présent par un simple acte de bonne justice.

C'est donc dans l'intérêt de l'Albanie, de la Grèce, de la Turquie, et de l'Europe même, que nous supplions votre Excellence de vouloir bien prendre en considération la situation du peuple Albanais, la dure alternative à laquelle on l'expose, et les conséquences qu'amènerait une décision favorisant les injustes prétentions de la Grèce au détriment du droit imprescriptible de l'Albanie.

Nous avons, &c.
Les Délégués Albanais,
(Signé) MEHMED ALI VRIONI.
ABDUL THRONHEIM.
VASSAL DINOR.
AMER CHEVKI.
SAÏD TOPTANY.
AHMED CHEVKI.

No. 519.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 614.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 20, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Consul-General Blunt, forwarding a letter from Colonel Synge, in which he expresses his appreciation of the kindness and assistance he has received received from the Ottoman authorities in carrying out the duties entrusted to him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 519.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, July 10, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a letter from Colonel Synge expressing his grateful thanks to your Excellency for the notice which your Excellency has taken of his services, and his appreciation of the kindness and the assistance which he has received from the Ottoman Authorities in carrying out the duties entrusted to him by your Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 519.

Colonel Synge to Consul-General Blunt.

Sir, *Caraferia, July 8, 1879*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your instruction of the 27th, and, in compliance therewith, I shall leave for Constantinople by an early opportunity. I am truly glad to hear that my services have given satisfaction to his Excellency the Ambassador and yourself, and beg to testify my appreciation for the kind manner in which you have acknowledged them. I cannot but refer with gratitude to the universal kindness and assistance in the prosecution of my duties I have received

from the Ottoman authorities. I have always been received with friendship and assisted in procuring required information, and anything I have had to inculcate to them has always been received in the friendly spirit with which it was intended.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. SYNGE.

No. 520.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 650.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 22, 1879.*

PRINCE LABANOFF asked me last night whether I could not interfere to induce Colonel Clarke to attend the meeting of the Commission for the delimitation of the frontier between Russia and Turkey in Asia from Karaourgan. He complained that, in consequence of Colonel Clarke's refusal to take part in the proceedings of the Commission, it had been at a standstill for the last two months. The season was advancing, and unless some arrangement was come to which would enable the Commissioners to proceed to the spot without further delay, they would be unable to conclude, or perhaps even to commence, their labours this year. The Russian Government could not allow this state of things to continue. The frontier, inhabited by wild tribes, was in continual disorder, which was increased by the present uncertainty. The Russian Government had, therefore, resolved to take stringent measures, unless the question were immediately settled. It would give orders to the Russian troops to advance, to turn out the Turks, and to take possession of the line of frontier which suited Russia ("qui nous convient"). The Porte might "cry out" as it liked after this had been done. He had warned Caratheodory Pasha of the consequences of the Turkish Delegate joining with Colonel Clarke in arresting the work of the Commission. Prince Labanoff maintained that Colonel Clarke was entirely in the wrong in his interpretation of the Treaty of Berlin, and that if England were to have a voice in the settlement of the point west of Karaourgan, from whence the remainder of the boundary was to be traced, and did not accept that to which the Russian and Turkish Commissioners had already agreed, the whole of the frontier-line hitherto laid down might have to be changed, and to this Russia could not consent.

I told Prince Labanoff that I had no authority whatever to give instructions to Colonel Clarke, and that all I could do would be to submit what he had stated to your Lordship.

I have informed Colonel Clarke of what passed between Prince Labanoff and myself. He said that he had fully explained the question at issue in a despatch to your Lordship sent through me to-day under flying seal, and that he could only await your Lordship's instructions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 521.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 652.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 22, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches, upon matters of interest in their respective districts, which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls at Erzeroum and Prevesa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 521.

Major Trotter to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Erzeroum, July 7, 1879.*

IN the first instructions given by the Sublime Porte to the Imperial Commissioners the latter are directed, on arrival at Erzeroum, to constitute a Commission under their own presidency, whose members are to be selected from the different communities (Jema'at) in numbers (from one, or, in case of necessity, more) proportional to the total number of souls in each community. The Imperial Commissioners are also to select some of the local functionaries as members of the said Commission.

In this Commission the faults and deficiencies of the existing régime, and local wants and requirements, are to be discussed with full freedom of speech.

Projects of reforms are to be elaborated on the basis of the new vilayet regulations recently drawn up at Constantinople. As soon as the necessary legislation is completed, the reforms are, where possible, to be carried out, with the aid of his Excellency the Vali Pasha. All reforms which are not in accordance with the new regulations must be referred to Constantinople before being carried into effect.

In a subsequent instruction the Commissioners are directed, after having, to a certain extent, put in order the affairs of the head-quarters of the vilayet, to proceed to the district centres, where, after studying the complaints and wants of the people, they are to carry out the needful reforms.

In preparing to carry out the first instruction, an important difference of opinion arose between the first and second Commissioners.

Yusuf Pasha maintained that the number of Mussulman and Christian representatives on the Commission should be proportional to the total number of Moslems, including Turks and Kurds on the one hand, and the total number of Christians on the other, while Sirkis Effendi maintained that, as a large portion of the nomad Kurds pay no taxes to the State, and fail to contribute to the supply of soldiers, such members of the community have no right to representation, and he would therefore exclude the nomad and rebellious Kurds (such as the Dersimlees) from the calculation.

This difference of opinion arose prior to my arrival at Erzeroum, and I was not informed of it until after a reference had been made to Constantinople on the subject. It appears that each Commissioner explained his own views at considerable length to the Porte. A telegraphic answer has just been received from Constantinople which practically is an order to carry out the original instructions. It lays down that the Commission may consist of thirty members or more, in numbers proportional to the numbers of the community, that on this point "il ne faut pas se mettre à faire des minutieuses recherches mais a le plus possible trouver un moyen d'arranger les affaires comme il est déjà recommandé."

I myself view the matter this wise: if the original instructions be carried out, and a local Commission be formed as above, it would, in fact, be a kind of small local Parliament with no well-defined powers, and no definite rules of procedure to go by. If it be looked on as a small Parliament, the Kurds doubtless would be entitled to their fair share of representation, although how such representatives are to be selected it would be difficult to say; but it would hardly be fair to pack the Parliament with Turks (as distinguished from Kurds) to represent the non-forthcoming Kurds.

Knowing the country as I do, however, and the style of men who would probably be selected as representatives, the idea of such a Parliament ever coming to any satisfactory practical conclusions in a reasonable time is almost too absurd to waste a thought on; and, if the Turkish Government really contemplated such an idea, I can only rejoice that the present difficulty is likely to lead to its abandonment.

If, on the other hand, this Commission is, as I think it ought to be, merely intended to be consultative, it is immaterial whether there be a majority of Christian or Mussulman members. The Imperial Commissioners will be guided by the arguments and facts put before them, and not by the comparative numbers of the disputants.

The Imperial Commissioners are men selected for their experience, ability, and integrity, and their brains and good sense put together will produce a far superior article to a hodge-podge resulting from the collective ignorance, fanaticism, and folly of the members of the little Parliament that it is proposed to assemble. There is, moreover, to my mind, a glaring inconsistency in the instructions in laying down that this Commission shall meet and legislate on the needs of the country, and that, having done so, the Imperial Commissioners shall travel about the country to find out what its needs and requirements are.

Surely the obviously better course would be to direct the Commissioners in the first place to make their tour in the country, and then, when they have acquired a thorough knowledge of its state, let them legislate for it.

I believe the Commissioners are themselves coming round to this opinion, and, in the last conversation I had with Yusuf Pasha on the subject, I gather that, even if this projected Assembly ever meets, it will be regarded by the Commissioners merely as a consultative body.

I have the honour to inclose copy of this despatch for favour of transmission to the Secretary of State.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER, *Major*,
Consul for Kurdistan.

P.S. *July* 12.—Since the preceding was written, the Commissioners have decided to call together a consultative Council, consisting of thirty-eight members, of whom ten are Christians (seven Armenians, one Armenian Catholic, and one Greek) and twenty-eight Mahommedans. The Christians have been nominated by the Christian Commissioner and the Mahommedans by Yusuf Pasha. Selection has been made entirely amongst non-officials, and, as far as possible, of persons unconnected with the Government. Most of the persons selected are inhabitants of the city of Erzeroum, but there are some few members from other district centres.

The official records of the vilayet give it a population of 197,768 Mussulmans and 55,043 non-Mussulmans, males.

The first meeting of the Commission, which will be presided over by Yusuf Pasha, will take place on Monday, the 14th instant.

At a meeting of the Imperial Commissioners on Thursday, the 10th, a strong deputation of the Armenian community, composed of the Archbishop, four Archimandrites, and the Presidents, members, and Secretaries of the various Armenian Councils, waited on the Commissioners to present them with a lengthy scheme, drawn up by the Armenian community, for the better government of the country. This document is now being translated into French, and this translation will, I understand, be formally presented to me as soon as ready, and I shall lose no time in forwarding a copy of it to your Excellency.

The principal features in the scheme are the proposed equal representation numerically amongst the officials of the province of Moslems and Christians; the insistance on an European head for the new gendarmerie, as well as one or more European subordinates; the use under certain circumstances officially of the Armenian language; the abolition of the tithe system, &c.

The deputation was well received by the Commissioners, who promised to give the project due consideration, but at the time the deputation was received the Commissioners had, of course, not studied the contents of the document. Yusuf Pasha, on reading it through shortly afterwards, reserved his opinion of its contents, as also shall I until I have the opportunity of forwarding a translation of the document (which is very lengthy) in full. It will, I doubt not, be forwarded to the Sublime Porte for consideration.

A Sub-Commission, under the presidency of Serkis Effendi, the second Imperial Commissioner, has commenced an inquiry into the affairs of the Geghi district.

The Sub-Commission appointed by the Vali, on which, at my request, there is a Protestant member, has proceeded to the Geghi district to institute inquiries on the spot. The Vali informs me that it will specially direct its attention to certain accusations against the local Aghas, with reference to frauds on the Government in connection with the enlistment of recruits.

H. T.

Inclosure 2 in No. 521.

Major Trotter to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Erzeroum, July 10, 1879.*

IN reply to your Excellency's despatch of the 25th June on the subject of the complaint of the Armenian Patriarch that the Porte is about to dispatch 4,000 refugee

families from Roumelia to the district of Moosh, I have the honour to state that I yesterday called on the Vali Pasha to ask him whether there was any truth in the report.

His Excellency informed that he now heard the report for the first time, but that as Moosh was in the Vilayet of Van, and not of Erzeroum, it was possible, although extremely improbable, that such an arrangement might be contemplated without his having been informed of it.

I may add, on my own behalf, that as all the refugees would have to pass through Erzeroum Vilayet *en route* to Moosh, it is most unlikely that such a scheme should have been decided on without the knowledge of the Vali of Erzeroum.

The Imperial Commissioners, moreover, can give me no information on the subject.

As the Central Commission for the repatriation of the refugees sits in Constantinople, I would suggest that inquiries be made of the authorities there.

It is possible that the proposed dispatch to the Moosh district of some of the refugees from the recently ceded territories in Asia may have given rise to the rumour that 4,000 families were to be sent from Roumelia.

The number of refugee families now leaving the district of Kars, Ardahan, and Olti have been estimated by the authorities here at from 8,000 to 10,000. These are arriving in Erzeroum daily in considerable, but not in excessive, numbers, and are being forwarded on, after a brief delay, northwards and westwards. They will probably ultimately all be dispersed in the Erzeroum, Van, Sivas, Diarbekir, and Kaiserieh Vilayets, and no doubt some of them will be sent to the Moosh district, but to what extent I cannot here learn. The Central Refugee Commission at Constantinople could probably alone supply the information required. His Excellency the Vali informs me that there are vast tracts of fertile land lying waste in the Moosh district, and although the presence of large bodies of refugees will doubtless add another to the numerous existing elements of disorder, yet it is one that can hardly be avoided. The refugees are nowhere welcome, and although the Pasha here proposes to send large numbers to Diarbekir, yet I know the Christians there, and I believe the Pasha also, are quite as averse to receiving them as the Armenian Patriarch is on behalf of the people of Moosh. The same, probably, holds good for all other vilayets in Asia Minor.

The only official who appears anxious to obtain refugees is Dervish Pasha, the Commander of the 4th Corps d'Armée, who wishes to settle a number of them in the disturbed districts in the Dersim. His proposal, however, has been strongly objected to by the Vali Pasha, whose objections are approved of by the Imperial Commissioners and by myself.

The villagers in the neighbourhood of Erzeroum have been loud in their complaints at having their carts and mules forcibly seized and utilized without payment for the transport of the refugees.

The matter came up before the Imperial Commissioners yesterday, and a telegram has been sent to the Porte requesting that authority may be given to make proper payments for the hire of carriages, the forcible seizure of which is, of course, unavoidable and necessary, although specially trying to the population just as harvesting is about to commence.

I have the honour to inclose copy of this despatch for favour of transmission to the Secretary of State.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER, *Major*,
Consul for Kurdistan.

Inclosure 3 in No. 521.

Major Trotter to Sir A. H. Layard.

Erzeroum, July 11, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that, in a private letter received by me this day from Diarbekir, of date 21st June, it is stated "affairs are going bad in Kaza of Midyad, several Christians have been massacred, and Manasse Effendi, the Christian Commissary, has been dispatched in haste to Mardin to make an inquiry."

I have also received from M. Boyajian (whom on my departure I appointed Acting Consul of Diarbekir, which appointment, as your Excellency is aware, the Porte refused to confirm) a letter, dated the 3rd June, intimating that the Mutessarif of Mardin has reported to the Vali of Diarbekir that "the alleged assault upon the premises of the American missionaries at Midyad is without foundation." Apparently, therefore, it is the intention of the authorities that the perpetrators of the outrage, about the fact of which there can be no doubt, are to escape unpunished.

Her Majesty's Government being now without any Representative at Diarbekir, all further action in the matter must be made from Constantinople, I shall therefore feel obliged if your Excellency will intimate to the American Minister that I have been unable to secure the punishment of the guilty parties. It will rest with his Excellency to take any further measures in the matter that he may deem necessary.

M. Boyajian also writes "that an investigation is being made about alleged defalcations on the part of the present Nazir of the Diarbekir custom-house." His two predecessors were both found guilty of robbing the Government, so that this style of robbing appears chronic at Diarbekir, and is likely to continue so into the distant future, as long as the culprits escape without the punishment they so justly deserve. The opportunities of theft are so good, and the State is plundered of such large amounts (£T. 20,000 it is said in the case of the last incumbent), that the culprits have ample funds to bribe the Judges and other officials both in the vilayet and at Constantinople, and yet to have a handsome maintenance left for themselves.

Complaints have also been made to the Vali that the Defterdar of Diarbekir has been robbing the Treasury during the past six years, by frauds in the tithes, but with the result of these complaints I remain ignorant.

I received on the 4th instant the following telegram from M. Boyajian:—

"Porte asked Vali lately if there is any objection to my appointment as Consular Agent here. Vali replied favourably."

I presume that this has reference to the reopening by your Excellency of the question of M. Boyajian's nomination as my Acting Agent in Diarbekir.

I have the honour to inclose copy of this despatch for favour of transmission to the Secretary of State.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER, *Major*,
Consul for Kurdistan.

Inclosure 4 in No. 521.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Sir A. H. Layard.

Prevesa, July 12, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that Mr. Kypriotis reports the following acts of brigandage were committed in the districts of Conitza and Zagori on the 15th and 26th ultimo:—

On the 15th a band of brigands entered the village of Paloseli, set fire to several houses, some of which they also plundered, and carried off fifteen men and women, but a body of troops starting in pursuit the prisoners were released.

On the 26th another band, thirty-six strong, entered the village of Najades, and captured the village schoolmaster, but information of the above having reached the troops stationed in that neighbourhood, they immediately went in pursuit of the brigands, and the schoolmaster was in consequence set free. The above had, however, previously been deprived of 150*l*. A party of peasants also joined in the pursuit. Mr. Kypriotes also states that on the 20th three brigands were killed and one wounded by the mountain guards at Conitza. The heads of the three former were brought to Janina.

Livaa Hassan Pasha arrived here from Constantinople last week and left for Janina.

It is rumoured that five battalions of infantry are expected at Prevesa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. BLAKENEY.

No. 522.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 124. Political.)

My Lord, *Philippopolis, July 16, 1879.*

WHILE at Tirnovo, on the 9th instant, I had the honour to report to your Lordship by telegram to the following purport:—

"At 9 o'clock this morning all the foreign Representatives were officially received by His Highness the Prince, who, on my being presented to him, spoke with marked gratitude of the gracious reception with which Her Majesty the Queen had honoured him at Balmoral, as also of your Lordship's hospitality in London. His Highness expressed himself with much cordiality and sincere pleasure. Shortly afterwards he went, accompanied by Prince Dondoukoff, the Russian and the Bulgarian principal officials, and the Diplomatic Corps, to the Cathedral, where a *Te Deum* was performed, and thence to the House of the National Assembly. There His Highness read a short Address, in Bulgarian, expressive of his gratitude for the national choice, and his intention to govern well; after which he took the oath of fidelity to the Constitution, and was acclaimed as Prince by the Assembly and by the multitude outside, while a salute of 120 guns was fired. He then declared the Assembly dissolved, and returned to his lodgings, where he received congratulatory visits.

"A fire having broken out in the town the night previous, when about forty houses and 100 small shops had been burnt down, the Prince, during the afternoon, visited the spot of the disaster, and distributed 4,000 roubles amongst the sufferers by the late calamity. The effect of this well-timed liberality was excellent. His Highness then proceeded to visit, on horseback, the rest of the town and the camp on the river banks outside, being everywhere received with loud acclamations. Prince Dondoukoff took no part in these things, having been up all the night previous assisting in the extinction of the fire, and having, consequently, retired to rest for the afternoon.

"The enthusiasm of the people at large for their new Prince was evidently not less sincere than demonstrative, and assumed progressively more and more of a personal character. The Mahommedan element was fairly represented in the crowd, which comprised not the inhabitants of the town only, but of the surrounding country to a considerable distance."

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 523.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 129. Political.)

My Lord, *Philippopolis, July 16, 1879*

YESTERDAY, in reply to a telegram just then received from your Lordship, I had the honour to report to the following effect:

That about 3,000 Russian cavalry, originally quartered in East Roumelia, with about 1,000 artillerymen, were at present within the limits of Bulgaria, which territory they are actually traversing on their way to embarkation at, I believe, Rustchuk; also that about the half of the army division originally encamped in the neighbourhood of Shumla, and having its head-quarters at Pravidi, had not yet, to the best of my knowledge, effected its embarkation from Varna. This latter information I deduce from Prince Dondoukoff's parting words to me at Tirnovo, five or six days since, that he was about to go to Varna, there to superintend in person the embarkation of the said troops. I added that I estimated the total number of Russian soldiery yet within the limits of the Principality, though on their way through it or out of it, at from 8,000 to 9,000 at the most.

In a despatch marked No. 99, Political, I had the honour of reporting to your Lordship the exact number of Russian military definitely attached to the Bulgarian army. Besides these, some 200 or 300, mostly privates, will probably remain, more or less permanently, within the Principality, some on account of health, others from local connections, marriages, and the like; the rest will, there is every reason to believe, be outside the frontiers within a fortnight from the present date.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 524.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 132. Political.)

My Lord, *Philippopolis, July 17, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge without delay the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 80 of the 19th June, present year, regarding the ill-treatment to which, as it is alleged, the Mussulman inhabitants of Bulgaria are subjected; as also the inclosures to the same effect in the above-mentioned despatch.

On my arrival at Sofia, I will at once, in accordance with your Lordship's instructions, bring these complaints to the knowledge of the Bulgarian authorities, urging investigation, and, where requisite or possible, redress. Nor will I fail to point out to them, in accordance with the tenour of your Lordship's remarks, the extreme importance of a conduct the very opposite to whatever would afford not merely real, but even plausible grounds to such complaints.

I shall also write to Her Majesty's Acting Vice-Consul at Varna, requesting the fullest and most accurate information possible on the alleged cases of cruelty and violence within his district, in the vicinity of Varna and Pravadi, as stated in the petition forwarded by his Excellency Caratheodory Pasha.

I am happy, in the meanwhile, to note that his Excellency Caratheodory Pasha's assertion, that a similar state of things to that alleged above exists at Sofia, Radomir, or Kustendil, is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, entirely destitute of foundation.

Trusting that I may be able soon to report satisfactorily on the attention paid and the remedial or preventative measures taken by the authorities of the Principality for the protection and in behalf of the Mussulman population.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 525.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 186.)

My Lord, *Athens, July 17, 1879.*

M. DELYANNI having heard privately from the Greek Minister at Constantinople that the Porte was about to appoint immediately Plenipotentiaries to treat with the Greek Agents recently appointed to negotiate on the question of a new frontier between the two countries, directed M. Brailas, who has lately arrived here from St. Petersburgh, to proceed at once to Constantinople, and he consequently took his departure on the 15th instant.

It is reported to-day that the Porte has named three Representatives at the approaching Conference, and the Greek Government will therefore name a third Plenipotentiary.

The appointment of M. Brailas is much disapproved by the opposition here, as he is considered to hold Russian views in regard to Eastern affairs.

M. Rhazis, Secretary-General of the Foreign Office, has been appointed to go to Constantinople to direct the Chancery of the Hellenic Legation there during the Conference.

For a due appreciation of the character of this gentleman, I beg to refer your Lordship to Sir Henry Elliot's despatch to Lord Derby No. 322 of the 30th March, 1876, and to Mr. Stuart's No. 83 of the 25th April, 1876.*

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

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* These despatches show that M. Rhazis was, notwithstanding his position in the Greek Foreign Office, in secret correspondence with General Ignatieff. King George wrote to his Minister at Constantinople to endeavour to ascertain who it was that was betraying the confidence of his Government.—H. U. J.

No. 526.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 164.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, July* 19, 1879.

I HAVE unfortunately found on my arrival the general state of public affairs in Roumania even more complicated and less satisfactory than I had anticipated.

Advantage has been taken by evil-disposed persons of the long interval which has elapsed since the dissolution of the previous Chambers to get up a secret agitation, ostensibly directed against the admission of Jews to equality of civil or political rights, but in reality directed against the present dynasty and the existing institutions.

Many persons supposed to be favouring this kind of agitation are heard to say that foreign Powers have no right to push their interference so far by threatening to employ measures of coercion, which, in reality, are not at their disposal, whilst others go even to the length of making Prince Charles responsible for the pressure now put upon the country ruled by His Royal Highness.

The agitation on this question is, in fact, an opportunity for bringing all kinds of malcontents into one common camp, and hence, until this burning question is satisfactorily solved, there remains a constant apprehension that the flame of sedition may be fanned by foreign or domestic agitators, and place the peace and tranquillity and the institutions of Roumania in peril by some untoward disturbance.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 527.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 165.)

My Lord; *Bucharest, July* 19, 1879.

AS soon as it became apparent that the present Ministry could not make sufficient progress in amending Article VII of the Constitution without reconstituting the Cabinet and admitting some of their present opponents into their body, M. Rosetti, who is one of the most powerful leaders of the party now in office, resigned the Speakership of the Lower House.

He was immediately re-elected to his former office by seventy-three votes against one. But five members recorded blank votes and forty-two absented themselves purposely from the Chamber.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 528.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 166.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, July* 19, 1879.

THE Prince of Roumania has consulted the Presidents of the two Chambers, MM. Boziano and Rosetti, and subsequently other influential members of both these bodies, as to the course they recommended as most desirable to terminate the present Ministerial crisis: no one has shown himself willing to accept the responsibility of forming a new Cabinet.

MM. Boziano (the President of the Senate) and Vernesco have expressed themselves opposed to any larger measure of concession on the Jewish question than the one rejected by M. Bratiano as insufficient to meet the requirements of the Treaty of Berlin; they have likewise endeavoured to persuade the Prince that the Powers would have ultimately to yield to the resistance of Roumania.

The Prince is about to adopt the only course left open to him by asking M. Bratiano to reconstruct a Cabinet pledged to carry out the obligations of the Treaty.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 529.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 167.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, July* 21, 1879.

I HAD the honour of a long interview with the Prince of Roumania yesterday, and I am satisfied that His Royal Highness will spare no efforts and exercise all the influence he may possess to secure the services of Ministers who will be able to ensure the adoption by both Chambers of the Legislature of a measure on religious disabilities likely to receive the approval of the Great Powers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 530.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 168.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, July* 21, 1879.

M. BRATIANO has been entrusted by the Prince with the formation of a new Cabinet, the members of which will be brought together by the sole desire of solving the Jewish question in a Constitutional way, and will be disposed to forego for the moment their other political divergences of opinion.

It is admitted that the duration of such a Ministry can only be extremely precarious, and that its general action on other public business may be accompanied with considerable inconvenience.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 531.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 169.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, July* 22, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Boeresco has accepted the offer to join the new Cabinet with the office of Foreign Minister in it, but he has stipulated that the Chambers should be prorogued for a couple of months to enable the new Government to work out a solution of the Jewish question.

A week ago Count Andrassy had been sounded as to the advisability of such an adjournment of the question, and had used very strong language dissuading from such a course, which appears to me also very objectionable, on many grounds.

Count Hoyos has, however, been asked both by M. Bratiano and M. Boeresco to represent to his Government the absolute necessity for such delay.

I fear very much that any further procrastination will only leave the door open to fresh intrigues.

M. Cogalniceano, who accompanied M. Bratiano to Berlin to the Congress, and who had to leave office last autumn owing to his strong partiality for Russia, has been also asked to re-enter the Ministry.

Hardly any of the present Ministers will remain in office except M. Bratiano, the Prime Minister, and, perhaps, M. Stourdza, the Minister of Finance, who is now on a special mission at Berlin.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 532.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 171.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, July* 23, 1879.

I HAVE reason to believe that the following list of the new Ministers will be announced to the Chambers in the course of the day:—

1. M. Bratiano, John, President of the Council and Minister of Public Works.
2. M. D. Stourdza, Minister of Finance.

These two were in the former Cabinet.

3. M. Cogalniceano, Minister of the Interior.
4. M. Boerescu, Minister of Foreign Affairs.
5. M. Cretzulesco, N., Minister of Worship and Public Instruction.

This last, who has been in office on many previous occasions, is included now as the friend of M. Boerescu.

The following two are staunch supporters of M. Bratiano:—

6. Colonel Lecca, the War Minister;

And 7. M. Stolojano, Minister of Justice.

It is clear that the political opinions of these gentlemen are by no means homogeneous.

I am further assured that the Chambers will at once adjourn for at least one month; a delay of three months was projected at first; this time is considered necessary to quiet the existing agitation, and to secure a sufficient number of adherents for a satisfactory solution of the Jewish question.

For my part I have entertained the greatest objections to any delay beyond the time strictly necessary by the requirements of the Parliamentary system.

I have had the honour to state this in a previous despatch to your Lordship (No. 169), and I have exerted myself to obtain the reduction of this adjournment to a minimum

It appears to me that the Powers might on this occasion make a communication, through the good offices of Austro-Hungary, expressing a hope that the new Cabinet will adopt such steps as may prevent any further delay being asked, and that at the expiration of the present adjournment this question will obtain a final and a satisfactory solution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 533.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 29.)

(No. 173.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, July* 24, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the accompanying French translation of the Ministerial programme as given to the Chambers before their prorogation yesterday.

This translation has been obtained from the foreign Department.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 533.

Message to the Roumanian Chamber.

(Traduction.)
MM. les Sénateurs,
MM. les Députés,

APRÈS la démission du dernier Cabinet, le nouveau Ministère qui se présente aujourd'hui devant vous, bien que composé de nuances diverses, est toutefois uni en ce qui touche les principes généraux, et surtout dans l'action que réclame la situation présente et les grandes difficultés du moment.

Les temps sont graves, Messieurs les Sénateurs, Messieurs les Députés, des plus graves que notre pays a eu à traverser. Nous avons laissé de côté tout esprit de parti, toute passion, toute réminiscence, et nous nous sommes donné tous la main, comme nous l'avons déjà fait naguère dans des situations graves, comme le faisaient souvent nos aïeux; car c'est de cette façon seulement que nous pourrons défendre les intérêts les plus chers et les plus légitimes de notre patrie.

Nous ne venons pas nous constituer comme nouveau Gouvernement contre le courant, rationnel et juste, des idées du pays en ce qui concerne la solution qui est à l'ordre du jour, ni contre les craintes légitimes qu'elle a prorogués. Ces mêmes idées,

comme ces mêmes craintes, nous les partageons nous aussi de concert avec vous, avec la nation toute entière.

Le pays, par les anciennes Chambres et par presque l'unanimité des sections actuelles des Chambres, a déclaré, solennellement et haut, qu'il veut se conformer au Traité de Berlin, et réviser l'Article 7 de la Constitution, et votre Gouvernement croit que c'est la voie la plus sûre à suivre pour écarter les difficultés présentes, et à faire entrer, sans inconvénient, dans notre droit public le principe que la différence de religion ne constitue pas un empêchement pour l'acquisition et l'exercice des droits civils et politiques.

De la sorte votre Gouvernement, fort de ce désir exprimé par la nation, sera en état pour assurer les Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin que la nation Roumaine n'entend pas contredire le principe contenu dans ce Traité, relativement à la révision de l'Article de la Constitution, ni s'y opposer, n'y contrevenir, ni l'éviter.

La seule préoccupation légitime du pays est d'un ordre intérieur; elle se réfère seulement à nos intérêts nationaux et économiques, qui demande à être défendus lorsque cette révision s'effectuera.

Aussi, Messieurs les Sénateurs, Messieurs les Députés, votre Gouvernement croit répondre tant aux exigences de la diplomatie de l'Europe qu'aux préoccupations légitimes du pays, quand, en reconnaissant le principe de l'égalité religieuse et de la liberté des cultes, il admettra et soutiendra en même temps pour la révision de l'Article 7 dans sa partie relative à nos intérêts intérieurs, une solution basée sur le principe de la naturalisation individuelle, qui exclue toutes catégories, ainsi que sur des restrictions spéciales pour l'acquisition de la propriété rurale.

Ces simples affirmations que nous faisons seront, sous peu, traduites en fait, et alors vous serez à même les premiers d'apprécier si nous avons su correspondre à votre attente, aux besoins du pays.

Nous espérons, Messieurs les Sénateurs, Messieurs les Députés, que jusqu'alors cet exposé, simple mais précis, de notre politique, sera de nature à calmer les esprits et détruire les craintes.

Pour l'accomplissement de cette œuvre nous comptons sur votre concours, qui, croyons-nous, ne nous fera jamais défaut, car l'œuvre que nous entreprenons n'est pas une œuvre d'un parti, ou d'une nuance quelconque, mais du pays tout entier, dont tous nous désirons la prospérité, dont tous nous défendons les intérêts.

No. 534.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 29.)

(No. 63.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July* 21, 1879.

I HAVE the honour herewith to transmit copies of letters which have recently passed between the new Russian Commissioner and myself, bearing upon the subject matter of my telegrams Nos. 61 and 62, from which your Lordship will perceive that the Russian Commissioner distinctly enunciates the principle that Great Britain has no voice in the determination of the point west of Karaourgan.

As I had anticipated for some time past, the appointment of a new Russian Commissioner, ostensibly on account of the so-called illness of General Stebnitsky, had for its real object to endeavour to annul the work of the latter, in so far as he had admitted the right of the British Government to participate in the fixation of the point west of Karaourgan.

This right being beyond any Powers or those of the Russian Commissioner to discuss, and involving a question of principle, which, I apprehend, the respective Cabinets can alone determine, I have been obliged to appeal to your Lordship for instructions.

As, however, it appears on the Protocols of this Commission that I have always upheld that Great Britain has the right to a voice in the determination of the point west of Karaourgan, I would beg to submit to your Lordship very briefly the grounds upon which my opinion on this subject has been formed.

By the 18th Protocol of the Treaty of Berlin, Prince Hohenlohe states that the Representative of Russia agrees to the withdrawal of the frontier of the San Stefano Treaty to a point west of Karaourgan, as the result of the discussions between the Representatives of Great Britain and Russia.

The Delimitation Commission of Berlin, after taking note of this declaration of the Representative of Russia, proceeds to indicate in terms a proposed frontier, starting from a point west of Karaourgan and terminating at the old frontier of Russia; but the Delimitation Commission not possessing the necessary information with regard to the ground, nor the maps, &c., sufficient to enable them to come to a decision with regard to the difficulties which have arisen between the British and Russian Delegates, proposes to refer the ultimate trace to be determined on the ground by a military Commission of the three Powers.

The framers of the Treaty of Berlin, in full knowledge of the difficulties which had arisen, and of their proposed remedy, drew up Article LVIII. In this Article it is said that the frontier "suit cette rivière (Pennek Tschai) jusqu'à Bardouz, puis se dirige vers le sud, en laissant Bardouz et Yenekeui à la Russie."

In my humble judgment it is here—at this last full stop in the Treaty—that the competence of the Russo-Turkish Commission to trace the frontier ends, and where the duties of the Tripartite Commission commence. For the next paragraph begins, "D'un point à l'ouest près du village. . . . ," showing, from the use of the indefinite article, that a point had yet to be chosen, viz., the point to which the frontier of the San Stefano Treaty had to be retired. Upon whom should this act of selection devolve but upon the Representatives of the Powers between whom the difficulties had arisen? It seems to me that according to the spirit and wording of the Treaty of Berlin, that the Russo-Turkish Commission had no right to trace their line of frontier definitively beyond the parallel of Yenikeui until the point west of Karaourgan, duly fixed by the Tripartite Commission, gave them a point upon which to direct their frontier.

The letter of Count Schouvaloff to your Lordship, dated the 13th February last, shows that the Imperial Cabinet of Russia agreed to the participation of Great Britain in the delimitation of the frontier, "depuis Karaourgan," which can have no other meaning than that the Representative of that last-named Power was to have a voice in the interpretation of the Treaty from and after the paragraph having reference to that village.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 534.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke to General Zelenoi.

Thérapia, le 18 Juillet, 1879.

M. le Général,

A PROPOS de notre conversation d'avant-hier, voudriez-vous bien avoir la bonté de décrire en mots la position exacte du point que vous proposez à l'ouest de Karaourgan comme point de départ de nos travaux.

Les Commissaires de la Russie et de la Turquie en ont déjà connaissance; quant à moi, Représentant d'une Puissance intéressée, j'ignore tout-à-fait la position du point en question.

Sous ces conditions inégales je n'ai qu'à vous réitérer que la question d'assister à une séance pour moi est impossible sans avoir reçu vos renseignements détaillés, ou bien sans avoir vu votre carte, afin que je puisse fixer le point sur la mienne.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) F. C. H. CLARKE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 534.

General Zelenoi to Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke.

Bujukdéré, le $\frac{17}{19}$ Juillet, 1879.

M. le Colonel,

LA notice de son Excellence M. l'Ambassadeur de Russie du 28 Juin, 1879, à son Excellence M. l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre, résume l'opinion de M. l'Ambassadeur de Russie sur le point en question à l'ouest près de Karaourgan, explique sa position mathématique fixée par MM. les Délégués Russes et Turcs de la première Commission, et se prononce positivement sur l'absence des droits de la deuxième Commission de discuter ce point, déjà fixé par la première Commission.

En présence de cette opinion de mon Ambassadeur, pour moi obligatoire, il ne me reste, M. le Colonel, d'autre alternative, qu'à constater en votre présence de Délégué Britannique et membre de la deuxième Commission, de mon côté comme Délégué Russe et membre de la même Commission, officiellement en séance plénière de la deuxième Commission, l'exacte position du point choisi par MM. les Délégués Russes et Turcs de la première Commission, sur les deux exemplaires documentals de la carte, signés par MM. les Délégués Russes et Turcs de la première Commission.

J'aime à croire, M. le Colonel, que vous de votre côté, désirant accélérer les travaux de la frontière Turco-Russe, qui intéressent les deux pays limitrophes, vous nous rejoindrez dans la deuxième Commission.

Les conditions inégales pour vous, dont vous avez la bonté de me signaler l'inconvénient, provenant d'après votre opinion de ce que [vous ignorez jusqu'à présent le point de départ des travaux de la deuxième Commission]* sur la carte, seront, j'ose l'espérer, mises au néant par votre seule présence au sein de la Commission et par la constatation dans la Commission devant vous du point en question.

C'est aussi au sein de la Commission que se serait présenté la possibilité de fixer sur votre carte ce point d'une manière officielle, ce qui n'aurait pas eu lieu à la suite des pourparlers privés. Dans ce but d'ordre de mon Ambassadeur, sur l'invitation de la Sublime Porte, je me suis rendu au jour fixé à la Commission, muni de notre exemplaire de la carte documentale, et je regrette infiniment que votre absence à la Commission n'a pas permis jusqu'à présent de faire la constatation du point en question.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. ZELENOI.

Inclosure 3 in No. 534.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke to General Zelenoi.

Thérapia, le 20 Juillet, 1879.

M. le Général,

J'AI l'honneur d'accuser réception de votre aimable lettre du $\frac{17}{19}$ Juillet.

En réponse, j'ai l'honneur de faire observer que les Protocoles de la seconde Commission démontrent qu'à la première séance le Président de la Commission constata en séance plénière que la première Commission n'a pas fixé le point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan et qu'elle n'avait pas même le droit de le déterminer, sans la participation du Commissaire Britannique. De plus, le premier Protocole prouve que le Commissaire Russe ayant la parole, ne souleva aucune objection à cette affirmation de la part du Président.

Les Protocoles, en outre, démontrent que trois séances ont été presque entièrement consacrées à la discussion du point de départ pour les travaux de la Commission.

Par conséquent, j'ai cru que j'avais le droit de supposer que le Commissaire Russe a admis en principe le droit du Commissaire Britannique d'assister à la détermination du dit point.

Le rejet de ce principe par vous, M. le Général, ayant soulevé des questions entièrement nouvelles, j'ai dû référer l'affaire à la décision du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique.

Je saisis, &c.
(Signé) F. C. H. CLARKE.

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* This perversion of my letter is an illustration of the way in which the Russian Commissioner conducts business.—F. C. H. C.

No. 535.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 464.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 26, 1879.*

I HAD this morning some conversation upon the Roumanian Jew question with Prince Ypsilanti, the Greek Minister at this Court, who had just returned from the Principality, where he is a large proprietor, and has many relatives.

He stated it as his conviction that though the present Ministers would make all the concessions in their power to meet the demand to carry out the provisions of the Treaty, it would be idle to expect a measure of general emancipation, for, even if they were to propose it, they would not be supported either by the Chambers or the country.

The Ministry might be forced to resign, and the Chamber might be dissolved, but the result would be an administration and a Chamber less disposed to concession, and no exercise of prerogative by the Prince would enable him to comply with demands resisted by almost his whole people.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 536.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 465. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 26, 1879.*

SIR JOHN WALSHAM, in a telegram to your Lordship of the 1st instant, reported the French Ambassador to have said that he had been told by Prince Bismarck that Austria was prepared to support his policy of insisting upon the fulfilment of the XLIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin before recognizing Roumania, and that she would, if necessary, take part in the negotiations which the Chancellor thought should be undertaken at Constantinople if the Principality persisted in resisting.

The latter part of this statement is not strictly correct. I am informed that the answer returned by Count Andrassy to a communication on the subject from Prince Bismarck was that he would support those Governments which, not having yet recognized the independence of Roumania, were insisting upon the fulfilment of the Treaty, and if the Principality refused to carry out its obligations he would recall the Austrian Hungarian Envoy from Bucharest; but he entirely deprecated the proposal for negotiating on the subject at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 537.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 583.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 28, 1879.*

IMPERIAL Hatt nominates Aarifi Pasha Prime Minister; Safvet Pasha Minister for Foreign Affairs; Sawa Pasha Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and to be in charge *ad interim* of that Department.

No. 538.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, July 28, 1879.*

WITH reference to my telegram of the 26th instant, Extraordinary Session of Chamber was closed on the 26th instant by Royal Decree, without voting on any of the Bills proposed by Government.

Present Ministry remains in office, and will have advantage of controlling impending elections for new Chamber.

(Copy sent to Constantinople.)

No. 539.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, July 28, 1879.*

UPON what map is Clarke's map based?

No. 540.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29, 1 A.M.)

(No. 116.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, July 28, 1879.*

AUSTRIAN Minister has received no instructions to make such a communication as that referred to in your telegram.

No. 541.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29, 3·30 A.M.)

(No. 117.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, July 28, 1879.*

GIERS read to me to-day a telegram from Stolipine announcing evacuation of Eastern Roumelia by the Russian rear-guard.

No. 542.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29, 3·40 A.M.)

(No. 118.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, July 28, 1879.*

THANKS for Colonel Clarke's map just received. Unfortunately, it does not correspond with the map sent to Russian Government. On the latter, the Russo-Turkish trace seems to terminate at a point a little to the north, and six versts, instead of one, to the west of Kurucurgan.

Their reports seem to have left Russian authorities in ignorance of the dispute

between Colonel Clarke and their own Commissioner as to the trace south of Colonel Clarke's point X. They have asked for another day to re-examine their documents in connection with my explanation of the nature of the difficulty between our respective Commissioners.

No. 543.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 29, 5 A.M.)

(No. 119.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, July* 28, 1879.

GIERS is very anxious to get your consent for that portion of the Montenegrin frontier upon which Commissioners cannot agree to be delimitated provisionally by temporary marks, according as the majority of voices may determine; those marks to be maintained until such time as the European Powers decide finally upon those portions of the provisional frontier; those portions of the frontier upon which the Commission has been able to agree being indicated by different and more permanent erections.

No. 544.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 29, 9 A.M.)

(No. 40. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, July* 28, 1879.

WITH reference to your telegram No. [?], Secret, I shall not fail to prevent a quarrel, but the Governor-General's firm attitude has had the effect of inspiring fear and respect.

The Bulgarians and Russians look upon him as their sheet anchor, owing to his generally weak and vacillating conduct, and are not likely to bring about a rupture.

No. 545.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 29, 9 A.M.)

(No. 41.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, July* 28, 1879.

ON Saturday, Local Administration signed contract with Russian Consul-General for the purchase of the Russian telegraph plant for the sum of 40,000 roubles. On the same day telegraph service was taken over by the Director of Works, to whose department telegraphs and posts have been attached.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 546.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 29, 10 A.M.)

(No. 42.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, July* 28, 1879.

ON the strength of a telegram from Her Majesty's Consul at Bourgas, I take the liberty of congratulating Her Majesty's Government on the entire evacuation of this province by the Russian troops effected yesterday.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 547.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 29, 10·30 A.M.)

(No. 43.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, July* 28, 1879.

BY a majority of 5 to 2 (Italian and Russian Delegates) the Commission has accepted the modified resolutions of French Commissioner giving to Porte practical possession of posts and telegraphs in this province, and affirming that officials of those services are Imperial [? servants].

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 548.

General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 29, 11 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Buyukdéré, July* 29, 1879.

I HAVE received your No. 8.

Frontier party started Monday for Salonica in a Smyrna [? boat]. That route is quicker, and avoids the possibility of difficulty of transit in Bulgaria.

No. 549.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Michell.

(No. 52.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 29, 1879, *noon.*

YOURS 36.

You are authorized to accept the clause. A refusal to do so, when the Austrian and Turk have consented, would be misunderstood. But the reservation made by the Turkish Commissioner is quite sound. No vote to which the Commission can come is competent to modify or supersede any power conferred by the Treaty of Berlin. Any resolutions restricting the authority conferred by the Treaty on the Sultan can only be operative through his acquiescence.

No. 550.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 981.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 29, 1879.

I LEARN through Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh that M. de Giers is very anxious that that portion of the Montenegrin frontier, upon which the Commissioners cannot agree, should be delimitated provisionally by temporary marks, as may be determined by the majority, those marks being maintained until such time as the European Powers shall decide finally upon that portion of the provisional frontier, and that those portions of the frontier upon which the Commission has been able to agree shall be indicated by erections of a different and more permanent character.

I should be glad to learn your Excellency's opinion of this proposal.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 551.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 983.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 29, 1879.

THE tracing of the Asiatic frontier sent home with Colonel Clarke's despatch No. 38 of the 22nd May last has been forwarded to Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh for his examination. Lord Dufferin now informs me that the map

received by the Russian Government does not correspond with Colonel Clarke's tracing.

I have requested your Excellency to inform that officer of this fact, and to state to him that I should be glad to see an exact *fac-simile* of the map in the possession of the Russian Government if he is able to procure one.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 552.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 985.)
Foreign Office, July 29, 1879.

Sir,

IN reply to your telegram, marked Secret, of the 27th instant, I have to state to you that the advice given by your Excellency to the Sultan, when His Majesty sought your opinion, through a third party, as to the Ministerial crisis then pending, and the course he should follow with regard to the Greek question, is entirely approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 553.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 421.)
Foreign Office, July 29, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE to request that your Excellency will endeavour to obtain and to send home a copy of the map received by the Russian Government from their Commissioner for the demarcation of the Russo-Turkish frontier in Asia, to which allusion is made in your telegram of yesterday.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 554.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Michell.

(No. 27.)
Foreign Office, July 29, 1879.

Sir,

IN a telegram of this day's date, I have authorized you to accept the clause of the Resolution No. 2 alluded to in your telegram No. 36 of the 27th (?) * instant, which prescribes that in the case of an unanimous vote the opinion of the Commission will be obligatory on the Governor-General: a refusal to do so on your part would be liable to misconstruction when the Austrian and Turkish Commissioners have assented to it.

The reservation made by the Ottoman Commissioners, that the action of the Commission with reference to calling in the Turkish troops must not be incompatible with the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin, is quite sound. The Commission is not competent by any vote to which it can come to modify or supersede any power conferred by the Treaty of Berlin; and any resolutions passed by it which restrict the authority conferred on the Sultan by the Treaty can only be operative through his acceptance of them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* Dated July 26.

No. 555.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29, 11 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
Rome, July 29, 1879.

INTERVIEW with Count Tornielli this morning. He avoided pronouncing positively respecting Greek frontier. Said he must take into account unanimous feeling of Parliament in favour of line proposed by Congress of Berlin. Motion in this sense postponed in Senate yesterday withdrawn at his request. Wishes to act with England, and hopes to find a basis for doing so.

I said the only object of Her Majesty's Government was just, peaceful, and durable settlement, and, therefore, they were against cession of Janina, and thought Italian proposal suicide.

My impression is Signor Cairoli will not go counter to popular feeling on this question in Italy.

He alluded to Egyptian affairs, which I avoided discussing. Spoke of desire of ex-Viceroy of Egypt to go to Constantinople. I advised him to persuade his Highness not to try, as if he got permission he would only intrigue.

About Roumanian recognition Signor Cairoli seems less eager than his predecessor.

No. 556.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 30.)

(No. 584.)
(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, July 29, 1879, 11·50 P.M.

I HAVE had a long conversation with the Sultan to-day. He has given me solemnly his word of honour that he will put into execution at once, in certain provinces of Asia Minor, the reforms promised to Her Majesty's Government. I pressed appointment of Baker Pasha to a high command in Kurdistan. His Majesty wished to know when he was coming back, and gave me to understand that he would employ him as I suggested. If you can communicate with Baker Pasha, will you let me know when he may be expected here.

Sultan issued his Iradé to-day for appointment of Commissioners on Greek question. He again begged me to ask Her Majesty's Government to assist him. He said if he agreed to give up Janina the Albanians would rise, and he could not, without endangering his throne, command his troops to fire upon them.

No. 557.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 30.)

(No. 44. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.)
Philippopolis, July 29, 1879.

THE Commission convoked for purpose of settling limits of electoral districts has completed its labours. I regret to say result, if not checked, will be the exclusive representation of Bulgarian race in the thirty-six electoral districts.

The Governor-General spoke to me some time ago of appointing three Greek members out of ten whom he is allowed to nominate.

The Russian Commissioner said that above result will have a legal basis, and only prove the absurdity of imagining that this province is not essentially Bulgarian.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 558.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 30, 3:20 P.M.)

(No. 115.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July 30, 1879, 1 P.M.*

INSTRUCTIONS have been sent to the Austrian Commissioner for the Montenegrin frontier not to agree to a demand of the Montenegrins that frontier should be drawn to the east of the line indicated by Treaty, which ought to pass from Gorica-Topal, between Megured and Kalimed, the argument that a tribe would be divided not being considered valid.

No. 559.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 991.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 30, 1879.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 188 of the 28th instant, as it seems to be doubtful whether the instructions sent by the Admiralty can reach Admiral Hornby in time to prevent the British squadron from anchoring in Besika Bay, I have requested your Excellency, should you still think it important to do so, to telegraph to the Admiral at Besika, and request him to proceed at once with the ships under his command to Lemnos.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 560.

General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 31.)

(No. 42.)
My Lord, *Buyukdéré, July 25, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the whole Commission reassembled at a meeting held yesterday at Therapia, that part of it which had visited the western side of the frontier having returned to Constantinople on the evening of the 21st, after finishing its investigation of the portion assigned to it. When the Commission separated near Verbitza on the 22nd June, it was clearly understood, on the authority of the Russian Commissioner, that the whole of the maps which the Russian topographers were preparing of that part of the frontier would be ready for them at Sofia on the 28th June. This was not made good; only a portion of the maps were ready, and two gaps, one in the Rhodope range of 20, and the other between the Struma and Egri-Palanka, of 15 miles, still exist in it.

At the meeting yesterday the Russian Commissioner named two months as the probable period necessary for the completion of these maps. He also gave as a reason for their non-completion the hindrances alleged to have been offered by the Turkish populations and outposts along the frontier. Reports of such had reached the Commission while in the Balkans, when the Turkish Commissioner wrote to his Government requesting that orders might be sent to the Turkish authorities there. On the spot reports were found to be very conflicting as to whether such hindrances had been offered, but it was not till the arrival of the Commissioners at Egri-Palanka and Djuma, on the 8th and 12th July, that safe-conducts were given by the Pashas in authority to the Turkish Commissioner, who handed them to the Russian Commissioner for distribution to the topographers.

It is not clearly apparent that the absence of these safe-conducts prevented the progress of the work; but, at any rate, the Russians allege that it was prevented. Strong remonstrances were offered at the meeting yesterday against the length of time named for the completion of the maps, and I particularly urged that additional topographers should be allotted to that part of the frontier, and that the Commission should at once proceed to declare which line (alternatives being offered, as hereafter noted) they proposed to adopt, in order that the work of representing the ground on that line might be completed with all possible despatch. This the Commission did, and Colonel Bogolubow consented to acquaint the officer in charge of the survey with

its locality, and to convey to him the request of the Commissioner for urgent despatch of the work. I cannot say that the Russian Commissioner, either in words or manner, left the impression that the work would be materially furthered by this step. No doubt the Russians might successfully justify their rate of proceeding in an ordinary case; but, considering that this is a work of European importance, the delay of which causes great expense and inconvenience to all the Governments concerned, there seems little doubt that a correspondingly earnest effort on the part of the Russian authorities might greatly accelerate its progress. The impression left on my mind by his observations was, that the Russian Government was pursuing the survey of Bulgaria for its own purposes, and would not be likely to change the system on which it is executed for the furthering of the objects of the Commission.

The boundary of the old Sandjak of Sofia was found, by the members of the Commission on the spot, to be exceedingly complicated and confused, being marked by no natural line, and having been created apparently by the chance settlements and acquisitions of property of the inhabitants on each side. Thus, though the villages could be identified, as within or without the sandjak, the boundaries of the communes could not; and a line dividing the villages would have been, in great part of its course, entirely unsuited, from its extremely devious configuration, to the purpose with which the Congress of Berlin named it in the Treaty. Moreover, several villages placed in the Austrian map in one sandjak belong to the other. Therefore, and as no question of race is involved in this frontier line, the Commission unanimously agreed to adopt as the frontier line one which, while following natural boundaries, shall accord as nearly as possible with the presumed intention of the Congress.

The question of substituting "thalweg" for "right bank" of the Danube, on the northern boundary, has been remitted (by most of the Governments concerned) to the Commission, and was mentioned at the meeting, when the opinion was in favour of fixing on the map the existing thalweg, and, in case of future considerable shiftings of the course of the river, leaving the re-fixing of it to deputies of the provinces on each bank. The question will be further discussed at another meeting, of which I will furnish a Report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 561.

General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 31.)

(No. 43.)
My Lord, *Buyukdéré, July 25, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, while on the Bulgarian side of the frontier which they were employed in investigating, the members of the Commission who visited the western portion were induced to proceed to the town of Djuma, which is five miles south of the frontier of Bulgaria, under the following circumstances:—

Tahir Pasha, the Turkish Commissioner, received on the 12th July a telegram from Suleiman Hakki Pasha, commanding a brigade of Turkish troops south of that town, stating that the Mussulman houses were being burnt, and begging him to hasten his arrival. The Russian Commissioner had received similar intelligence, with the addition that the incendiaries were Bashi-Bazouks. The members of the Commission accordingly entered the town, several quarters of which they found had been burnt, and it was almost abandoned, except by some Bulgarian troops and police under the command of a Russian officer, who had entered it when it was evacuated by the Russians. In the course of the night, there being then fresh conflagrations, the Russian Commissioner announced to his colleagues that he had, before leaving the Bulgarian frontier that morning, telegraphed to Sofia to ask for authority to withdraw the Bulgarian troops as soon as the frontier line should have been pointed out to the officers of the outposts on each side of it. He subsequently consented to ask Tahir Pasha to direct Suleiman to enter the town with his troops for the purpose of saving it from destruction, a measure to which he had previously refused his assent. The Turkish troops were accordingly sent for (the Bulgarians having been withdrawn), and on their arrival the members of the Commission left the town and recrossed the frontier.

I have derived the foregoing information from the Report of Major Ardagh, who had been sent by me to accompany the Commissioners on that side, and have also heard of the circumstances from Tahir Pasha and his officers. I should not have

troubled your Lordship with this account had not the Commissioners been officially concerned in it in the way described, as I have considered it specially desirable for the purposes of my mission that I should keep clear of all party or other irritating disputes.

Tahir Pasha informs me that, in consideration of his character of Commissioner, he should not stir officially in the matter unless called on, it being in the hands of Suleiman, the Turkish Commander on the spot.

A more detailed account can be furnished by Major Ardagh if desired, but as it reflects on the conduct of my Russian colleague, I submit that it is not desirable for other members of the Boundary Commission to engage in such incriminatory matters at this time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 562.

Mémorandum communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by M. Bartholomei, July 31.

LA proposition Italienne amendée par le Délégué Russe portait qu'il y aurait lieu de tracer des lignes provisoires là ou les conclusions de la majorité ne seraient pas admises par l'une de parties intéressées.

Cette proposition n'a pas été prise en considération par la Commission de Délimitation du Monténégro, mais le Gouvernement Russe est d'avis que cette combinaison présente l'unique moyen de faire avancer les travaux de la Commission et de prévenir des complications.

En conséquence le Gouvernement Russe prie les autres Puissances participantes d'adhérer à la proposition susmentionnée, et de donner à cet effet des ordres à leurs Délégués dans la Commission de Délimitation.

No. 563.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 31.)

(No. 587.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 30, 1879.

BERAT of Investiture for the Prince of Bulgaria is now ready, and will be sent at once by Pertew Effendi.

No. 564.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 31.)

(No. 120.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, July* 30, 1879.

HAVING again remonstrated with M. de Giers about distribution of cartridges, he has read to me a pretty strong despatch, which he has sent to Prince Labanoff, expressing the Emperor's disapprobation of such proceedings, and suggesting that, if the Commission or the Powers desire it, the ammunition reported to be stored up in irresponsible hands should be handed over to the Governor-General.

No. 565.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 31, 8 A.M.)

(No. 121.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, July* 30, 1879.

THE Emperor has desired me to express to you his great anxiety lest the recent decision of the European Commission to place the postal and telegraph services of Eastern Roumelia in the hands of Turkish instead of native officials should produce evil consequences. This Government, however, is not yet in possession of reasons which influenced decision of majority of Commission.

No. 566.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 31, 2·30 P.M.)

(No. 45.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, July* 30, 1879.

THE Commission adopted unanimously this day the French Commissioner's motion in substitution of mine on the subject of Article 21 of the Statute. It establishes that interpretation given by the Governor-General to that Article does not correspond with the intentions of the authors of the Statute, and that the consequence of such an interpretation would be to give Bulgarian element a monopoly opposed to the spirit of Article 24. The motion expresses a hope that, as many appointments are only temporary, the minorities will shortly obtain reparation to which they are entitled under just interpretation of the Statute, while, however, keeping in view the rights of a majority. It indicates the necessity of taking into equitable consideration Turkish refugées now returning.

Another motion of French Commissioner was also carried unanimously. It declares that a petition presented against Vitalis to the Governor-General by the persons summoned to define electoral districts, and who styled themselves representatives of the nation, is an usurpation of the title and functions. The motion also regrets that Governor-General received such an illegal petition.

I deposited a motion respecting application of Article 370.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 567.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke.

(No. 8.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 31, 1879, 3·15 P.M.

PLEASE let me know by telegraph from what map the large tracing was taken which was sent home with your despatch No. 38 of the 22nd May.

If possible, procure and send home a copy of the map.

No. 568.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 994.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 31, 1879.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 609 of the 12th instant, I have to convey to you the approval of Her Majesty's Government of the Memorandum you have sent in to the Porte, reminding them of the engagements they have taken to establish an efficient gendarmerie, and calling their attention to the opposition on the part of the Turkish authorities with which the British officers who have been engaged in this service by the Government have had to contend.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 569.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 995.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 31, 1879.

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that the *note verbale* addressed by you to the Porte, of which copy was inclosed with your despatch No. 608 of the 12th instant, claiming protection for the Armenians in Kurdistan against the outrages to which they are exposed, is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 570.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 996.)

Foreign Office, July 31, 1879.

Sir,

THE information with which your Excellency has been furnished by Messrs. Henderson and Chermside, as reported in your despatch No. 614 of the 13th instant, regarding the failure of the Commission sent by the Porte to inquire into the condition of the district of Zeitoun and the ill-treatment of the Armenian Christians, amply justify the strong remonstrance which your Excellency instructed Sir A. Sandison to make to the Grand Vizier and to Carathéodory Pasha, and I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve your action in this matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 571.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Palgrave.

(No. 104.)

Foreign Office, July 31, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to my previous despatch of this day's date, I have to state to you that, inasmuch as the charges brought against the Bulgarians for ill-treating the Mahommedan population and depriving them of their property came from the Turkish Government as well as from the alleged victims of Bulgarian persecutions, Sir H. Layard has thought it right to communicate to the Porte the Reports written by you in a contrary sense which have passed through his Excellency's hands.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 572.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Blunt.

(No. 2.)

Foreign Office, July 31, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 31 of the 2nd instant, and I have to convey to you my approval of the representations made by you to the Turkish authorities in Macedonia, urging them to dispense with the services of the "Kirserdars" and other irregulars who have been employed in the police of the province.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 573.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke.

(No. 57.)

Foreign Office, July 31, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to the large tracing of the Asiatic frontier which accompanied your despatch No. 38 of the 22nd May last, I should be glad to learn as soon as possible from what map it was taken; and if you are able to procure a copy, I have to request that you will send it home by the earliest opportunity.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.